

UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT





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Ongoing CU COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Initiatives

For the past year, the University's Constituent Units have been at the forefront of providing technical assistance to various sectors in curbing the spread of COVID-19. Beyond the different webinars and online training that the CUs have organized, the University has also assisted LGUs in their vaccination rollout. UP Diliman, UP Visayas, and UP Mindanao have served as vaccination hubs. These initiatives encouraged and promoted volunteerism within the UP community. The medical staff, faculty, students, and other personnel served as the primary workforce in the different UP vaccination hubs. CUs are also keen on keeping the momentum of the vaccination rollout through their various campaigns and information dissemination drives.



UP Mindanao prepares to serve as vaccination hub for Davao City's government employees.

In its last Alumni Congress, the UP Open University hosted the webinar entitled, *Mission BakuNation: Achieving a Healthy Nation through Vaccines and Acknowledging the Role of the Environment*, which focused on the importance of vaccines and the environment as people prepare for a post-pandemic life. UP Manila also held Session 3 of its *HIV & COVID-19 Webinar Series entitled*, *Who Is Next in Line? Considerations and Guidelines in Vaccinating People Living with HIV or PHLIV*.

Building Emotional Resilience in the New Normal

Aside from being a threat to one's physical well-being, the pandemic has also put a strain on people's mental health, affecting their ability to remain resilient against the challenges of the pandemic. CUs have been spearheading webinars that present various topics on mental health and undertaking initiatives that offer psychosocial support for their constituents. UP System and UPOU, through the Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Committee on Psychosocial Emergency Services (UP COPES) conducted a webinar entitled, *USAP-LUSOG-ISIP: Conversations on Promoting Mental Health*. It featured Dr. Dinah Palmera Nadera, where she discussed practical ways to promote and take care of one's mental health. A webinar entitled *Building Resiliency* focused on "resiliency-building activities" and how these can help improve one's emotional resilience amidst the pandemic. While the webinar entitled, *Stress Management in the New Normal*, sheds light on the different signs and symptoms of stress and how one may be able to manage it.



The Constituent Universities have also provided online training webinars on the promotion of mental health in a teaching-learning environment through the *Training on Mental Health Promotion Teaching-Learning Environment* and the topic of psychological first aid in *LOOK*, *LISTEN*, *AND LINK: Basic Principles of Psychological First Aid*. These webinars aimed to capacitate the students, faculty, and staff with the necessary information to foster an enabling environment for building emotional resilience in the classroom, workplace, and home.

Voter Education and Civic Engagement

With months leading to the national elections, CUs have also been gearing up electionrelated activities which aim to promote voter education and civic engagement among the youth. The UP System Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association and UP Alumni Association have launched the Alam ng Isa, Alam ng Lahat Voter Education Campaign, which sought to engage the general public and encourage them to register to vote. On the other hand, UP Diliman focused on how social studies teachers can play a crucial role in educating their students about the elections and encouraging them to participate in the election discourse and vote actively.



Ensuring Gender Sensitivity and Safe Spaces Online

Following the celebration of Pride month last month, several CUs continued to organize online events and information campaigns that focused on promoting gender sensitivity and raising awareness about safe spaces and their importance. UP Manila launched the *Infographics: #SeekingSafeSpaces Project* which identified the different secure areas in UP Manila by consolidating their locations in a website. On the topic of safe spaces, the UP Cebu Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment (OASH) organized a webinar that discussed the importance of ensuring a safe and secure virtual workspace for those embarking on their e-internships. *(E-)Internship Safety Briefing* emphasized the importance of ensuring safety even within the virtual space. In a podcast with the Business World, UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies Director Nathalie Africa-Verceles discussed the different contradictions between Philippine culture and Philippine laws, especially on the idea of gender equality.

CU Initiatives on Addressing Remote Learning Needs

With the shift to remote learning, much has been discussed about the challenges that students and educators have faced. An equally important aspect of higher education is its service-learning component which is usually done through community immersion. Learning institutions have utilized various alternative means to conduct service learning in the remote setup. UP Mindanao's four-part webinar series, called *NSTP ONLINE: CWTS Implementation in a Remote Learning Setup*, allowed opportunities to discuss and reflect how UP CWTS has adapted to the new learning and teaching setup. It also provided an avenue for CWTS instructors to share the different CWTS remote learning practices across UP units and their institutional contexts.

CU Online Resources and Trainings on Online Resource Production and Management

Accessible online resources provide an opportunity for those who wish to expand the purview of their knowledge. Through UPOU's Media Center, several online resources such as recordings of their webinars and written resources have been made available to the general public. Resources like lectures on improving communication skills, digital literacy, responsible use of social media are available on the UPOU website. Aside from the online resources produced by CUs, they have also organized several webinars on online resource production and management. In the

Creating Your Podcast webinar, participants were trained on the knowledge and skills needed to produce one's podcast—from writing, recording, and editing.

Initiatives on Arts, Humanities, and Culture

The University's COVID-19 related initiatives have been firm affirmations of upholding the principles of honor and excellence, and compassion. However, much can also be said about the University's efforts to promote the arts, humanities, and culture. The UP Cebu Fine Arts Program and the Jose T. Joya Gallery organized an online exhibit that featured the works and perspectives of junior students' student-run art and design collectives from the Product Design Program and Studio Arts Program. The said exhibit celebrated the students' completion of AY 2020-2021.



Another institution that utilized an online modality in promoting the importance of arts and humanities was UP Baguio's Museo Kordilyera. With the launch of the Museo Kordilyera website, the collections and exhibitions featured in the museum were made accessible to the public. It also featured different resources and publications on indigenous culture and art. Following its call for contemporary literary and visual works, the UP Baguio Committee on Culture and the Arts (CCA) launched the *KIMATA folio: journal of contemporary literary and visual works*. The folio would feature contributions made by students, alumni, members of the faculty, and staff of UP Baguio. UP CAMP NSTP-CWTS students launched their advocacy project, the *Natatanging Obra:*

Showcasing the Talents of Persons with Disabilities Through Their Arts project. The project featured the talents and skills of selected persons with disabilities with the hope of educating the public on their abilities and refuting the misconceptions on what they can do.



Other Initiatives

Several workshops honed the participants' writing skills by subjecting their works to evaluating a panel of experts and their fellow participants. UP Cebu organized the Tagik Landasan 2021 Creative Writing Workshop, an annual creative writing workshop for UP Cebu faculty, students, and alumni catering to fiction and creative non-fiction. The UP Padayon Public Service Office also organized a similar endeavor, focusing on supporting and enriching public service scholarship. Nine fellows from the different CUs were selected and had undergone a writeshop to polish their respective works for publication.