

**Resolution Commending Dr. Esther Susan N. Perez-Mari, President of
University of Cagayan Valley, for having been Named
One of Asia's Top 10 Education Leaders by Asia Education Review**

Sponsor: Hon. Jude T. Bayona

WHEREAS, the Asia Education Review, a prestigious regional digital publication and magazine, has recently named Dr. Esther Susan N. Perez-Mari, President of the University of Cagayan Valley, as one of Asia's Top 10 Education Leaders;

WHEREAS, Asia Education Review based in Bengaluru, India and launched in 2023 serves as a platform for highlighting education trends and insights across Asia;

WHEREAS, recognizing excellence in the field of education, Asia Education Review publishes monthly issues featuring news, feature stories, and special rankings;

WHEREAS, given the publication's editorial mission which is to identify barriers in education and spotlight future-ready practices, Dr. Perez-Mari being named one of the "Top 10 Education Leaders in Asia" is a meaningful acknowledgment of impactful leadership in advancing educational excellence across the region;

WHEREAS, the recognition is a testament to Dr. Perez-Mari's visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to academic excellence, and tireless efforts in transforming the University of Cagayan Valley into a center of innovation, research, and quality education;

WHEREAS, under her stewardship, the University of Cagayan Valley has made significant strides in expanding access to higher education, improving academic standards, and fostering global partnerships with international universities like Ovidius University of Constanța, the largest university in South-East Romania and the largest university of the European Union at the Black Sea, and the Tra Vinh University, a public university located in the city of Trà Vinh, Vietnam, thereby contributing to the development of both local and international communities;

WHEREAS, as one of Asia's foremost education leaders, Dr. Perez-Mari was prominently featured in a two-page article titled "Dr. Esther Susan N. Perez-Mari – Bridging Medicine and Education to Transform Lives and Inspire Future Generations," published in the June 2025 edition of the Asia Education Review;

WHEREAS, Dr. Perez-Mari was described by Asia Education Review as "*A physician-scientist and university president, she dedicates her career to save lives and empower young Filipinos through education and legacy, focusing on programs that address pressing social issues and uplift marginalized communities.*"

WHEREAS, Dr. Perez-Mari was recognized alongside distinguished educators from South Korea, Malaysia, India, Japan, China and the Philippines who were hailed in the article as "visionaries reshaping Asia's educational legacy and forging paths toward a transformative future";

WHEREAS, Dr. Perez-Mari's inclusion in this distinguished list brings immense pride and honor not only to the University of Cagayan Valley and Cagayan Valley Region but also to the country;

WHEREAS, such an achievement deserves commendation, recognition, and celebration as it reflects the values of excellence, dedication, and service that inspire educators and leaders across the nation;

NOW, therefore, RESOLVE as it is hereby RESOLVED, to commend **Dr. Esther Susan N. Perez-Mari**, President of the University of Cagayan Valley, for her outstanding achievement in being named one of **Asia's Top 10 Education Leaders** by the **Asia Education Review**;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to **Dr. Esther Susan N. Perez-Mari** as a token of appreciation and recognition for her exemplary contributions to the field of education.

MY VIEW



Incorporating Hands-On Learning to Unlock Student's Potential

SUMED MARWAHA,
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
UNISYS

EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



Increasing Global Exposure For Students Through Overseas Education

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INAUGURAL INDIA
COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
UNSW



How to ADOPT a Revolutionary Approach for the Indian Education Sector?

MICHAEL J BARNES,
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ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
RISHIHOOD UNIVERSITY



Revolutionizing Candidate Sourcing: How AI is Reshaping the Hiring Process

DAVID CHERRY,
SENIOR DIRECTOR,
INTERNATIONAL TALENT
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PRINCIPAL

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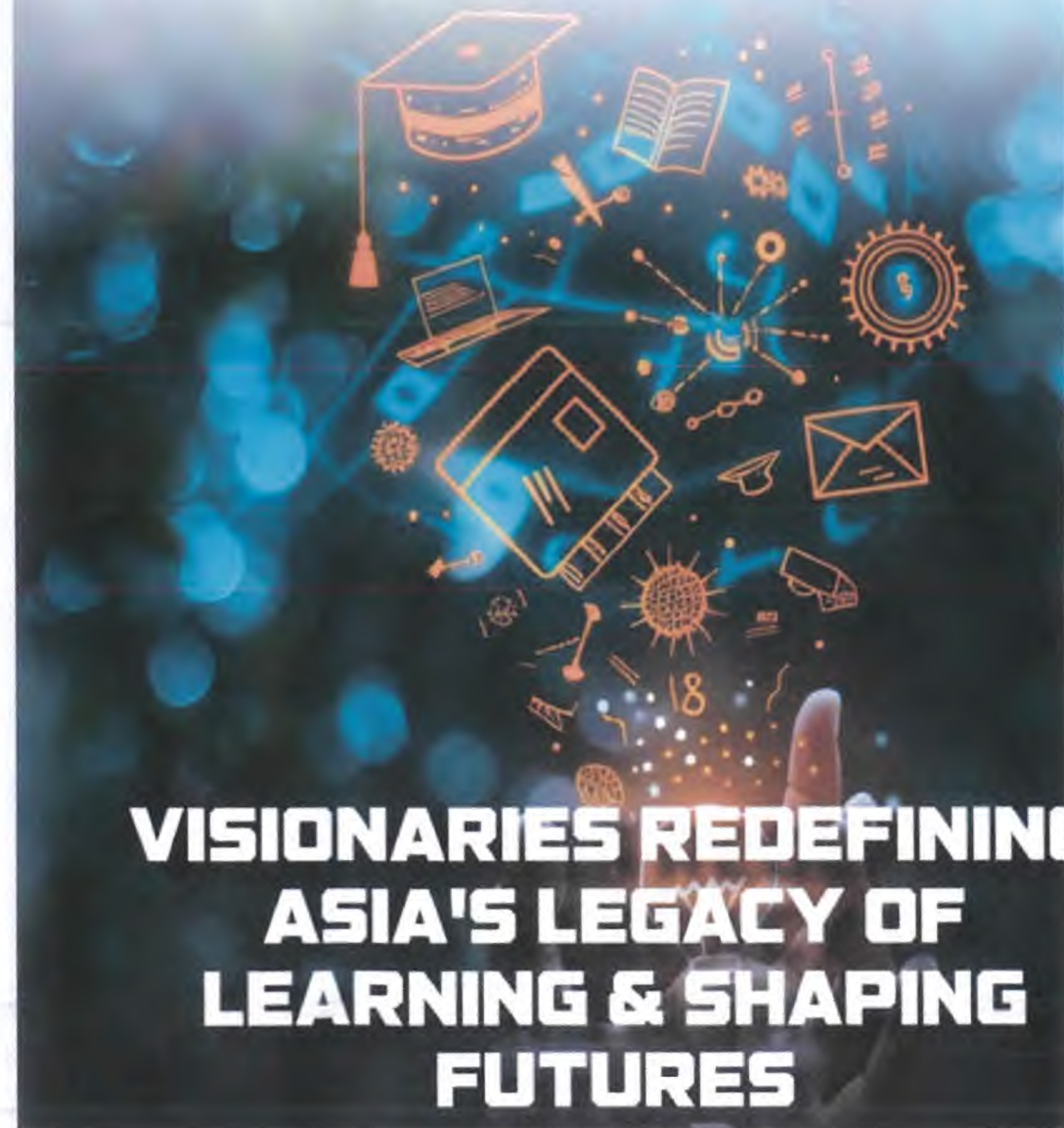
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WHAT'S NEXT FOR INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS?**



**VISIONARIES REDEFINING
ASIA'S LEGACY OF
LEARNING & SHAPING
FUTURES**

DR ESTHER SUSAN PEREZ-MARI

Bridging Medicine and Education to Transform Lives and Inspire Future Generations

The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, is as varied in its landscapes and cultures as its people's goals. The nation's future is shaped by education, which unites its thriving cities, isolated villages, and coastal towns. Filipino education leaders not only improve the lives of individuals but also fortify communities, demonstrating that education is the foundation of development and a driving force for revolutionary change throughout the islands.

As the President of the University of Cagayan Valley (UCV), Dr Esther Susan Perez-Mari has made a name for herself as a powerful figure in Philippine education. She started her career as an oncology physician scientist and drug developer in top pharmaceutical companies in the United States

which lasted for 22 years. In 2019, Dr Esther Susan succeeded her father, the late Hon. Dr Victor V. Perez, as President. Dr Esther Susan N. Perez-Mari, President of the University of Cagayan Valley (UCV), continuing her family's legacy of education founded in 1948 to address the post-World War II shortage of teachers. Balancing her medical career as an oncology physician scientist in the United States, she further prepared herself by earning a Ph.D. in Education, majoring in Organizational Leadership from

Northcentral University, Arizona, USA. Prior to her Ph.D., she earned a Bachelor of Science in Zoology

(Pre-Med) from the University of Philippines at Los Banos, where she was also a Student Leader. She obtained a Medical Degree (MD) from Our Lady of Fatima University where she has been awarded twice as Distinguished Alumna for her contributions in cancer research. Dr. Esther Susan also obtained a Masters Degree in Forensic Medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

To develop future leaders who are capable of handling challenges in the real world, she has made sure the university stays at the forefront of education by incorporating cutting-edge facilities, updating curricula to satisfy international standards, and encouraging a culture of research and innovation. Dr Esther Susan has also placed a high priority on faculty development because she understands that producing competent graduates requires empowered teachers. Upgrading teaching standards at UCV has been made possible in large part by frequent training sessions, exposure to international conferences, and cooperative research opportunities.

Empowering Communities through Education

Dr Esther Susan views education as a powerful tool for societal transformation, focusing on programs that address pressing social issues and empower marginalized communities. As such, during typhoon Ulysses, when Tuguegarao City was flooded, the University of Cagayan Valley provided hot meals to more than thirty-three thousand people in Cagayan Province for a span of approximately three weeks. Exemplifying their commitment to community service, she has made UCV a force for sustainable development by matching its programs to the socioeconomic demands of the area. Programs in Liberal Arts & Teacher Education, Social Work, Business Administration, Hospitality Management, Maritime, Health, Engineering, Technology, Criminal Justice, Jurisprudence, and Graduate



Studies have been created to give students skills that have an immediate influence on their communities. Her initiatives have also made graduates more employable and relevant to the industry by bridging the gap between academia and the workplace.

"I am committed to creating an inclusive environment where quality education is accessible to all, guided by our philosophy 'Every man, irrespective of creed and economic status, has the inherent right and access to quality education'. We ensure affordability with low tuition fees, open enrollment without entrance examination, and holistic student development through sports, extracurricular activities, and robust academic programs supported by Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd), Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), British Standards Institutions (BSI), Det Norske Veritas (DNV), and active research initiatives", she adds. "These initiatives have improved UCV's academic reputation while also helping to address regional and worldwide issues. I believe in the power of lifelong learning, so I have worked to make UCV a place where students of all ages can grow, offering certifications, continuing education, and community programs to ensure education is always within reach", continues Dr. Esther Susan.

In addition to UCV, Dr Esther Susan is a well-known advocate of educational reform in the Philippines who regularly attends conferences and policy talks. Her observations have influenced discussions about enhancing educational standards, resolving disparities, and encouraging creativity in the field.

Building a Legacy

In her capacity as President, Dr Esther Susan has spearheaded programs that have improved the University of Cagayan Valley's (UCV) academic reputation and community impact. Under her leadership, UCV has achieved and sustained the distinction of having the highest number of PACUCOA-accredited programs in the region for eight consecutive years. Apart from this, notable accomplishments include high passing rate for board courses. To increase UCV's international competitiveness, she has developed significant alliances with organizations like Ovidius University in Romania and Tra Vinh University in Vietnam. UCV also has partnerships with local universities like the University of the Philippines at Los

Banos, Our Lady of Fatima University, Wesleyan University, and others.

I am grateful beyond words to have a family legacy that can serve as a driving force in advancing humanity

Dr Esther Susan established the Parent-Student Council for transparent communication and an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to promote high-quality research. Her contributions extend to national advisory roles in health, education, and sports, and she has earned prestigious accolades such as the Gawad Cagayan Gintong Medalya Award in Medicine, Outstanding Research Leader in Asia, Outstanding University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) Alumna, Women in Science, Engineering and Research Award by the Department of Science and Technology among other awards. Most recent awards received in December 2024, UCV as One of the Top Performing Schools in Tuguegarao City during the Stakeholder's Gala hosted by Tuguegarao City Hall and Dr. Esther Susan was awarded as One of the Outstanding Tuguegaraoños (Outstanding Citizen of Tuguegarao City) during the 25th Cityhood Anniversary. Currently, Dr. Esther Susan is the National President of the Private School Athletic Association (PRISAA), Founding President of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRC) Cagayan Chapter. Her influence endures as she guides UCV toward internationalization and autonomous status under the Commission on Higher Education. Building on her family educational heritage, Dr. Esther Susan encourages others embracing innovation and diversity to improve communities and create better futures for generations to come.

"I have reached a fulfilled stature in my medical vocation and the time has come for me to inspire the young generation to contribute to humanity and make this a better world. I am blessed to have this great opportunity to spread my inspiration and link that infectious inspiration of help humanity to a legacy that shapes the minds of the young generation", concludes Dr Esther Susan. **AE**

President

University of Cagayan Valley
Tuguegarao
ucv.edu.ph

her career to save lives and empower young Filipinos through education and legacy, focusing on programs that address pressing social issues and uplift marginalized communities

Asia Education
Review TOP 10
EDUCATION LEADERS FROM ASIA - 2025

Dr. Robert L. Estrella
President

University of SouthEastern Philippines
Davao
usep.edu.ph

With experience in higher education administration, he champions student success, faculty development, and research enhancement, while guiding the university to foster partnerships with industry and government

Dr. Hong Hwang
Executive Director, Faculty and Research

SolBridge International School of Business
Daejeon
solbridge.ac.kr

With an academic career in marketing and management, he leads faculty development, drives high-impact research, fosters global academic partnerships, and is known for mentoring scholars and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration

Dr. O. Chua
Vice-Chancellor

University of the East
Manila
ue.edu.ph

He brings a blend of business acumen and academic leadership to the institution, contributing to strategic decision-making and institutional development through his extensive experience in corporate management

Dr. Francisco Reyes (Francis)
Vice President

International School for Better Beginnings
Quezon
isbb.edu.ph

With more than 20 years of experience in both business and education, she is a renowned educator, leader, and advocate who eschews hierarchical structures that often create barriers between staff and administration

Dr. Esther Susan B. Perez - Mari
President

University of Cagayan Valley

A physician-scientist and university president, she dedicates her career to save lives and empower young Filipinos through education and legacy, focusing on programs that address pressing social issues and uplift marginalized communities

Prof. Dr. Prakash Kulkarni
Dean

Mara University of Technology
Selangor
uitm.edu.my

A leader in higher education, he focuses on integrating technology and industry collaborations to equip students with future-ready skills and leads the institute's efforts to ensure program relevance in a fast-changing job market

William Wang
President & Dean

Asian Institute of Management
Makati
aim.edu

With an academic background and global experience, she has played a key role in strengthening AIM's international presence, promoting innovation, and integrating responsible management principles into the curriculum

Dr. Indira T. Viswanathan
Chairman

Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
Bangalore
iimb.ac.in

Known for his research on innovation in India, he has authored influential books and served on national policy panels, and is dedicated to advancing management education, fostering research, and promoting entrepreneurial thinking

Dr. Shiroshi Inoue
Dean

NUCB Business School
Tokyo
mba.nucba.ac.jp

Known for his leadership in advancing business education and research excellence, he brings experience in academia and management to foster industry-relevant curriculum development, promote global partnerships, and support faculty growth

Prof. Wang Hong
President

China Europe International Business School

With a background in business administration and public service, she brings a unique blend of academic leadership and policy experience and is known for promoting global collaboration in business education and advancing research in international management