SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities



Promoting inclusion and diversity through the Inclusion and Diversity Festival

One of TAU's most prominent contributions under SDG 10 was hosting their annual Inclusion and Diversity Festival on 10th-11th April 2025. This 2-Day event invited LGBTQIA+, PWDs, Single Parents, IPs and International Students.

In partnership with the Student Inclusion Unit, OSSD, GAD Office, College of Arts and Sciences, Student Placement Office and Supreme Student Council, the festival aimed to provide a space for dialogue, creative expression and awareness.

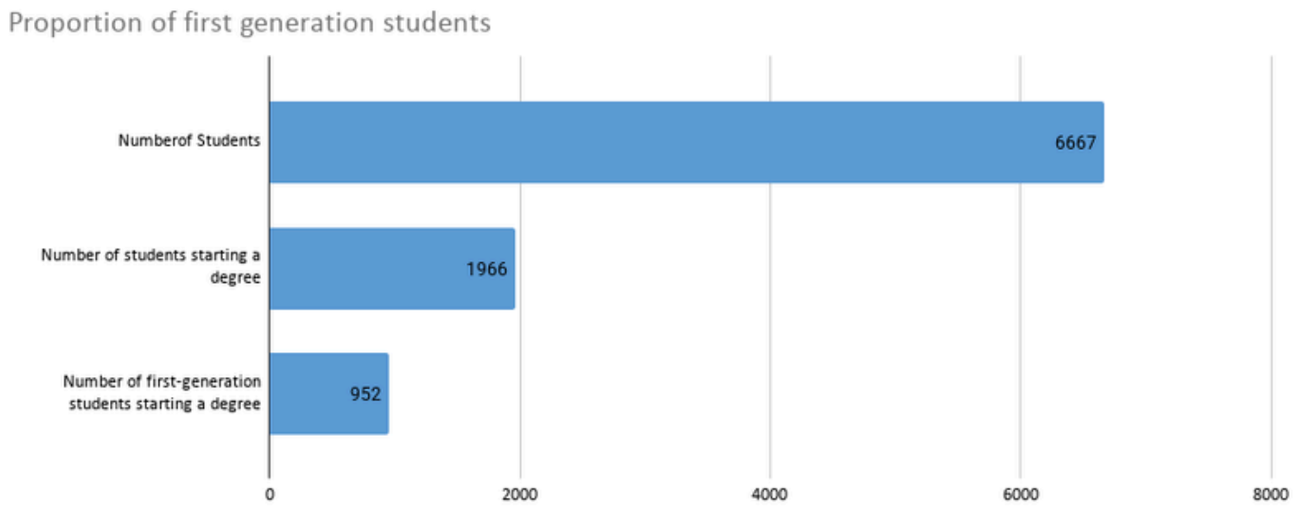
Through workshops on accessibility, single parenthood, rights of Indigenous Peoples and gender inclusivity, there were a variety of activities such as a Pride Parade, community art stalls, cultural showcases and an LGBTQIA+ talent show. There were also guest speakers and advocates who discussed diversity, rights and inclusivity. This is relevant to SDG 10 as it provides an opportunity for marginalized groups to have their voices heard, be involved in university life and increase awareness of the challenges they face. The festival also shows how to reduce inequality you need to create an environment that values diverse identities and backgrounds.



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These activities align with SDG 10 as it promotes social inclusion by acknowledging the identity, experiences and contribution of communities who may experience marginalization within their culture. In addition, it links reducing inequalities with protecting cultural diversity and ensuring indigenous students are meaningfully involved within educational institutions.

Institutional Performance



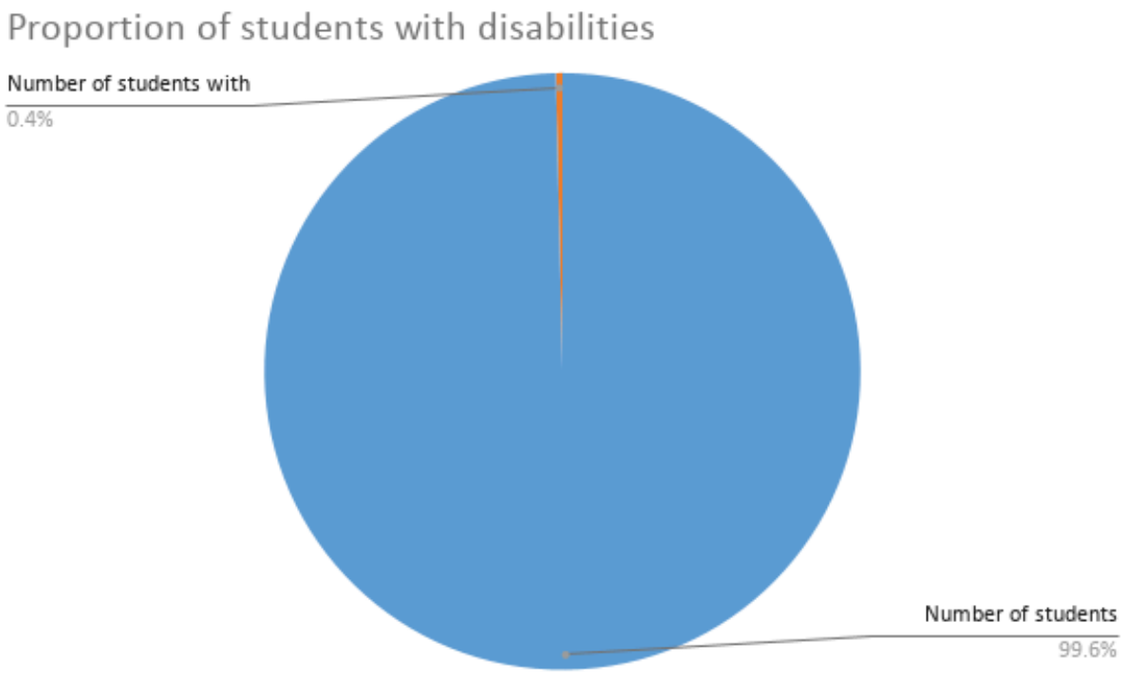
There are 1,966 students beginning a degree, of which 952 are identified as first generation students. This accounts for approximately 48.42% of the incoming student population. This means that almost one in two students entering the university comes from a family with no prior experience in university-level education.

This figure highlights the University's role in offering educational opportunities for students from diverse family and socioeconomic backgrounds. The large number of first-generation students shows that TAU is a critical vehicle for educational mobility, which in turn increases access to higher education and allows individuals and families to improve their socio-economic standing.



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Meanwhile, data show the efforts of Tarlac Agricultural University to make higher education accessible to students with different needs and capabilities. From the reported numbers, students with disabilities are approximately 0.4% of the university's student population while 99.6% of students are students without reported disabilities.

Students with disabilities comprise a relatively small proportion of the total student population, but they illustrate the importance of making higher education accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of all learners.



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HIghlights



Inclusion and Diversity Festival

Colorful rainbow flags, cultural shows, and resilient tales took center stage as Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) held its yearly Inclusion and Diversity Festival from April 10-11, 2025 where LGBTQIA+ advocates, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), solo parents, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and international students came together.

Organized by the Student Inclusion Unit from the Office of Student Services and Development (OSSD), Gender and Development (GAD) office, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Student Placement Office (SPO), and Supreme Student Council (SSC), the two-day program started with activities and performances aimed at raising awareness of different communities to build an inclusive society.

The festival raised awareness and sense of belonging through the speeches and presentations of national leaders and advocates such as Atty. Chel Diokno through virtual means. Meanwhile, in person, there was Senator Risa Hontiveros, Former DA Undersecretary Ariel Cayanan, Raf Dionisio from MAD Travel, and Dax Simbol from Tarlac Provincial Tourism, to empower voices, celebrate diverse identities, and inspire advocates at the TAU - Student and Alumni Center Amphitheater.



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The forum focused on accessibility, solo parenting, IP rights, and gender inclusion which were not only calls to actions but also affirmations that true progress can only be made through empathy, equity, and unity.

A colorful opening marked the start of the second day of the festival when the students engaged in a “Pride Parade” and launched various booths for the community art project at the Continuing Education Center (CEC).

Also, the LGBTQIA+ showcased their talents and expressions during the lip sync battle and inclusion competition in the CEC Function Hall.

Also enjoyed during the festival was the Holi Lunch—a colorful and fun event marking India’s Festival of Colors.

This tradition is a testament to the University’s commitment in creating an inclusive and respectful environment for all TAUians irrespective of gender, identity, cultural identity, and economic standing.



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In line with the International Day of Charity on Friday, 15 Indigenous Peoples (IP) students from Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) under BUKLOD-LAHI were officially welcomed as scholars of the Assisi Development Foundation, Inc.–Educational Assistance Program, in partnership with the Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation.

The gathering, facilitated by Mr. Mon Corpuz of the Black Pencil Project—the visionary behind the Labney Yellow School of Hope—went beyond being a simple orientation. It became a beacon of encouragement and inspiration for the beneficiaries. IP student scholars were oriented on the program's details, particularly on proper financial management, to help them maximize the support for their educational journey.

As part of the ceremony, the first tranche of financial aid covering two months was distributed to the student-beneficiaries, marking the beginning of sustained assistance and renewed hope for their studies.



Before the event concluded, Mr. Mon Corpuz and Mr. April Christian L. De Leon, Adviser of BUKLOD-LAHI and Chairperson for Services for Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Persons with Disabilities (PWD), agreed to formalize their collaboration through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This step aimed to strengthen communication and ensure the smooth delivery of services to the scholars.

By fostering partnerships such as this, TAU continues to champion inclusivity and access to education, ensuring that every student—especially those from marginalized communities—finds empowerment and opportunity through learning.

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In a continuous initiative to celebrate Indigenous Month, the Society of Early Childhood Educators (SEED) of Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), in cooperation with Buklod Lahi conducts an activity titled “ECED Talk: Kaalamang Katutubo” on 24 October at AVR 1, GenEd Building.

With the theme “Weaving Culture, Enriching Future: Empowering Indigenous Communities as Bedrock of Sustainable Development,” the activity seeks to enhance knowledge of the culture, and traditions of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and the importance of future teachers in facilitating inclusion and empowerment. Through this effort, SEED remains steadfast in championing cultural awareness and promoting inclusive education that honours Indigenous know-how and identity.

BUKLOD-LAHI participates in Indigenous Peoples Month 2025



The Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) extends its service through gift-giving to Indigenous People (IP) communities and to persons deprived of liberty, from 15-16 December, 2025.

As part of its 80th founding anniversary celebration, TAU continues to roll out activities that go beyond campus, translating its legacy into actions that uplift communities and reinforce its mission of service, compassion and nation-building.

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