



## **NO POVERTY (SDG 1)**

Urdaneta City University (UCU) is widely recognized for its commitment to providing quality education that empowers students to succeed academically and professionally. With a focus on excellence, UCU offers a diverse range of academic programs that cater to the needs and aspirations of its students, while maintaining high standards of teaching, research, and student development.

What sets UCU apart is its strong dedication to making higher education accessible and affordable for all. The university strives to bridge educational gaps by offering various financial aid programs, including the RA Scholarship Program, which supports a large portion of its student body. This approach ensures that deserving students, regardless of their financial background, have the opportunity to pursue their academic goals.

By fostering an environment where quality education meets affordability, UCU continues to be a competitive institution in producing competent and socially responsible graduates who are well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to society. The university's mission is not just to educate, but to ensure that education remains within reach for all students, making it a beacon of hope for many aspiring learners.

## PROPORTION OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY BECAUSE OF POVERTY

As of the academic year 2022-2023, Urdaneta City University has a total student population of **13,603** across various degree programs and academic disciplines. In order to provide accessible education within the university, UCU comply with the RA Scholarship Program as it aims to provide financial assistance and academic support to deserving students. The program has played a crucial role in enabling students to pursue their higher education despite financial constraints.

Out of the total student population of 13,603, **12,421 students** are beneficiaries of the RA Scholarship Program and other scholarship programs offered by the institution. This represents approximately **91.3%** of the entire student body.

This high percentage of scholarship beneficiaries highlights Urdaneta City University's commitment to providing accessible and affordable education to its students. The RA Scholarship Program continues to make a significant impact in supporting the academic pursuits of a large portion of the university's student population.

















## **UNIVERSITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS**

Urdaneta City University launched an initiative aimed at supporting students from low-income households, aligning with its mission to promote educational equity and ensure access to higher education for all. The initiative focused on providing these students not only with the opportunity to gain admission to the University but also with the necessary resources to succeed and graduate. A comprehensive support system was created to address the barriers faced by students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with faculty, staff, and administration working together to ensure the program's success.

Recognizing that financial constraints were a significant challenge for students from low-income backgrounds, the University designed the initiative to directly address these issues. Financial assistance was offered in the form of **scholarships**, **tuition discounts**, **and emergency grants**, which helped to alleviate the burden of tuition, living expenses, and other educational costs. This financial support enabled students to focus on their academic work without the constant worry of financial instability. In addition to financial aid, academic support services were provided, including personalized mentoring, tutoring, and academic guidance. Faculty members played a key role in offering individualized support and creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment for these students.

The initiative also recognized importance of non-academic support in students succeed. helping University provided a range of services designed to address the broader needs of students, such as career counseling, mental health support, life skills workshops, student wellness and These services helped programs. students navigate the challenges of university life and develop the personal and professional skills necessary for long-term success. By offering this holistic support, the University aimed to ensure that low-income students not only stayed enrolled but also thrived academically and personally throughout their time at the University.



The success of the initiative relied heavily on the collective involvement of the entire University community. Faculty members were encouraged to monitor the progress of their students, offer individualized academic assistance, and refer students who struggled to appropriate support services. Administrative staff, including those in Admissions, Student Affairs, and Financial Aid, worked collaboratively to streamline processes, ensuring students could easily access financial aid and support services. A dedicated task force was established to track the academic progress of low-income students, intervening when necessary to ensure students stayed on track for graduation.

















An outreach campaign was launched to ensure that eligible students were aware of the available support. The University's Admissions Office collaborated with local government units and community organizations to reach potential candidates and inform them of the initiative. This outreach helped ensure that low-income students were aware of the opportunities available to them, encouraging them to apply and take full advantage of the program.

Urdaneta City University remained committed to ensuring that students from low-income backgrounds were not only admitted but fully supported throughout their academic journey. The initiative was established as a long-term priority, reflecting the University's strategic goals to create an inclusive and equitable academic environment. The active involvement of faculty, staff, and administration was crucial to ensuring the success of the initiative. Through their combined efforts, the University worked to help students overcome financial challenges and achieve their full academic potential.



In addition, Urdaneta City University (UCU) UCU conducted the (Comprehensive Assistance, Resources, and Empowerment) programs as part of its ongoing commitment to provide essential support to students from low-income families. These programs aimed to address the specific challenges faced by students who were economically disadvantaged, offering a range of services designed to ensure their academic success, personal well-being, and overall

experience. Through the UCU CARE initiative, the University took significant steps toward creating an inclusive and supportive environment, allowing low-income students to pursue their education with greater financial stability, academic confidence, and personal empowerment.

The UCU CARE programs designed with the primary objective of students from low-income families not only to gain access to higher education but also to succeed and graduate. Recognizing that financial constraints, academic struggles, personal challenges often limited the potential of these students, the University structured the UCU CARE initiative to provide comprehensive, holistic support. This multi-faceted approach addressed both financial and non-financial barriers,



helping students remain enrolled, overcome obstacles, and complete their degrees.

In conclusion, the initiative represented a significant step in making higher education more accessible and equitable for students from low-income backgrounds. By providing comprehensive financial, academic, and non-academic support, Urdaneta City University helped ensure that all students, regardless of their economic circumstances, had the opportunity to complete their college education and succeed in their future careers. The initiative's success demonstrated the power of collaboration within the

















University community to create a supportive environment where every student could thrive, regardless of their financial background.

## **COMMUNITY ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS**



Urdaneta City University (UCU) demonstrates its commitment to supporting students and the local community in building financially and socially sustainable businesses through the Center for Student Leadership and Development (CSLD). One of the core mandates of the CSLD is to create economic and entrepreneurial programs designed to empower students with the practical knowledge and skills essential for navigating the world of business and trade. This initiative not only helps students acquire a foundational understanding of entrepreneurship but also equips them to manage and generate their own financial resources—resources that can significantly enhance their academic and co-curricular experiences.

To fulfill this mandate, the CSLD has launched a pilot project for the Campus Student Organizations' Trade Fair, an innovative approach aimed at encouraging campus-based entrepreneurial ventures. This fair provides accredited Campus Student Organizations (CSOs) with a platform to showcase their products and services, gaining hands-on experience in running a business. By participating in this Trade Fair, CSOs are empowered to generate income that can fund their future activities, enabling them to carry out meaningful programs aligned with their vision, mission, goals, and objectives (VMGOs).



Beyond creating financial opportunities for students, this initiative supports the university's larger goal of fostering a supportive campus community. The trade fair and other entrepreneurial programs initiated by the CSLD connect students with resources, such as mentorship programs, workshops. and access training university facilities. Through these resources, UCU not only facilitates the immediate needs of student organizations but also prepares students to launch and sustain their own ventures beyond their university experience, bridging the gap













between academia and real-world entrepreneurship.

By providing platforms like the Trade Fair and other entrepreneurial support, UCU exemplifies how a university can play an integral role in community development and in cultivating students' potential as future business leaders. This program illustrates UCU's dedication to fostering an environment that makes student life enjoyable, fulfilling, and meaningful, empowering students to contribute economically and socially within their communities.



Urdaneta City University (UCU) does not focus solely on one program to address the needs of students in the community. Instead, it consistently creates a variety of extension programs designed to uplift and support the community in meaningful ways. One of which is the **EXTENSION ACTIVITY: CAS AGAPE** 



Under the leadership of Dean Princess Quintana, the **EXTENSION ACTIVITY: CAS AGAPE** was launched for the students of Tiposu Elementary School on December 15, 2023. This event, which aimed to provide both material and emotional support, was made possible through the collective efforts of the college's faculty and students, who came together to uplift and bring joy to the children in the community.

In terms of objectives, the EXTENSION ACTIVITY: CAS AGAPE Program aimed to

accomplish several key goals. Firstly, it focused on providing essential school supplies to underprivileged students, ensuring that they had the necessary tools for their education. This effort helped ease the financial burden on families who might otherwise struggle to afford these basic items. Secondly, the program sought to offer hope and encouragement to children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly during the holiday season. By providing gifts and support, it aimed to lift their spirits and remind them that they are valued. Finally, the initiative sought to instill a sense of social responsibility in the faculty and students of the College of



Arts and Sciences. By engaging in this community outreach, the participants not only

















helped the children but also gained a deeper appreciation for the importance of service and giving back to the community.



As a result of these combined efforts, the EXTENSION ACTIVITY: CAS AGAPE at Tiposu Elementary School was tremendous success. Not only did it supplies provide essential school students in need, but it also brought joy and encouragement to help them stay motivated in their studies. Under the leadership of Dean Princess Quintana, the College of Arts and Sciences reaffirmed its dedication to social responsibility and community engagement, emphasizing the importance of supporting others, especially

during the holiday season.

To broaden this endeavor, Urdaneta City University teams up with schools and barangays to fight poverty through extension programs. This new initiative, which focuses on empowering local communities through educational support, is a collaborative effort between UCU, local schools, and barangays (villages). The program is part of the university's commitment to supporting the local government's ongoing efforts to eradicate poverty and contribute to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of ending poverty in all its forms by 2030. In this way, UCU is reinforcing its role as a key partner in the fight against poverty, aligned with both local and global goals.

The official launch of the program was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement led by UCU's Extension Director, Jerry Dichoso, who played a pivotal role in forging partnerships between the university, local schools, and barangays. The event, held at the respective campuses of the partner schools and barangays, saw the signing of Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with several barangay councils and schools in the region, formalizing their commitment to work together in delivering the program's objectives. As a result, the partnerships were solidified, creating a



clear framework for collaboration and ensuring that the program would reach its intended beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the partnership signing marked the beginning of a strong and meaningful collaboration that brought much-needed support to local communities. "Through this collective effort, we aimed to create a ripple effect that would empower local residents, enhance their skills, and provide them with the knowledge they needed to improve their lives and break free from the cycle of poverty," said Dichoso. "This was more than just a project; it was a movement for positive change." Thus, the initiative goes beyond immediate assistance, fostering long-term empowerment and self-sufficiency within the community.



















In addition, the partnership between UCU, local schools, barangays, and the local government is an example of how education can be leveraged as a powerful tool for social change. UCU's extension program is a concrete step toward achieving a poverty-free future, aligning with the Philippine government's national development goals and the global mandate to eradicate poverty. By working together, these entities are amplifying the impact of the program and contributing to broader social transformation efforts.

Looking ahead, UCU plans to expand the program to include additional barangays and schools, reaching even more marginalized communities. The university is also exploring opportunities to collaborate with NGOs, business organizations, and other stakeholders to enhance the impact of the program. As a result, the university is laying the groundwork for a sustained and far-reaching effort that will continue to benefit local communities for years to come.















