

To write is already to choose

RECORDS SE.

September 2022

Warmest greetings!

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines, the broadest and longest-running alliance of tertiary student publications in the Asia-Pacific region, encompassing over 750 member publications nationwide, is regarded as the national center for the advancement of campus press freedom.

With the aim to consolidate our ranks and revitalize the regional alliance after two years into the pandemic, the College Editors Guild of the Philippines Baguio-Benguet chapter will hold its face-to-face publication and media congress on October 8 and 9 with the theme: "Campus Press and Media as Bearers of Truth and Genuine Democracy." In the event, we will conduct various journalism skills training and contest-workshop to fully hone the skills of the student journalists and media. Respected writers, journalists, and media practitioners will also be invited. At a time where fake news, disinformation, and historical distortion are rampant, it is imperative that we band together in upholding genuine truth and democracy.

With that said, we are humbly asking for the endorsement of your esteemed office to our event, CEGP Baguio-Benguet Congress 2022. If you may also permit, we are requesting that you encourage student publication and/or media and communication organizations to attend the Congress.

We believe that your endorsement and the prestige that your office holds is key in inviting more student journalists to attend our event. Our previous partnerships with educational institutions, government agencies, and other organizations proved to be productive especially in reaching the wider participation of students and the youth.

Attached is the copy of the Congress' concept paper and program.

We hope for your most favorable consideration. You may contact us through examined to the control of the contro jiangarapo@gmail.com.

For a free press,

Jian Marie Q. Garapo CEGP Mero-Baguio Secretariat

Head Organizer

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CEGP Cordillera Regional Coordinator

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECORDS SECTION, REGIONAL OFFICE - CAR

October 6, 2022

To:

Schools Division Superintendents All Schools Division Offices All Others Concerned

Participation is purely personal and voluntary.

Department of Concation

For information and dissemination.

ESTELA P. LEON-CARIÑO EdD, CESO III

Director IV/ Regional Director

For the Regional Director:

AIDĂ L. PAYANG In-Charge of the Office CES, PPRD

CLMD/RCA/ttd/wjj



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SEC Registration No.: CN 286 S15894 - TIN:

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### CEGP BAGUIO-BENGUET CONGRESS 2022: Campus Press and Media as Bearers of Truth and Genuine Democracy

#### THE ROLE OF THE CAMPUS PRESS

In CEGP's founding year, the primary objective was to provide collaboration among tertiary publications to promote a higher standard of journalism. Five months after the establishment of the Guild, the alliance has continuously served as the voice of the masses; and became an avenue of disseminating the stories of the plight of the underserved, raising awareness to its local constituents and even beyond the walls of the university, and a bridge in attaining genuine national democracy through upholding the truth and combating mis- and disinformation.

Until these contemporary times, even with the presence of legal entities that would supposedly ensure the rights of journalists, the campus press, especially those who staunchly criticize the state's ineptitude in addressing the country's problems, has been constantly under attack. Despite this, the guild stands its ground as the bearer of truth and democracy, and continuously adheres to its mandate "to write is already to choose."

#### CAMPUS PRESS AS BEARER OF TRUTH AND GENUINE DEMOCRACY

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, it is only convenient for the eyes of truthful news to relay its vision to those people. The natural obligation of journalists is to serve as the bridge between society and the issues beneath it— however, the restrictions that were enabled by the pandemic lockdown had affected the general movement of the press. Journalists exist as a part of an ecology in which their work influences and is influenced by the environment that surrounds it. As such, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, journalists have the challenge of gathering and distributing accurate information.

During the pandemic, not only are we fighting Covid-19 but also fake news. There is an undeniable surge in the propagation of mis- and disinformation on the internet which molds and influences the decision-making of an individual. This real-life scenario, over time, becomes harmful to the preservation of truth and history, and a violation of the right of the people to access truthful information.

Campus journalism brings about socially-aware citizens. The constant relaying of news backed by facts and stances expressed through columns awakens the sleeping nationalism of Filipinos and prevents the further rise of misinformed people. The awakened sense of loyalty to the country deems people to know about what truly its state of affairs is.

Nevertheless, challenges like these will not be enough to slay the humble objective of journalists. As the Guild reached 91 years as the broadest alliance of tertiary student publications and fearlessly exposes the grassroots tribulations of society, we are reminded to uphold our mantra "to write is already to choose," which serves as our battle cry as we continuously write for the masses despite the odds.



"To write is already to choose."

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As such, the role of the campus press, together with the wide range of journalists and media practitioners, in the endeavor to uphold genuine democracy by illuminating the truth has never been more urgent. It is in this light that the CEGP Baguio-Benguet chapter will hold its Congress after two years to consolidate its members and consult other publications given the situation and challenges that the media is currently struggling with.

It is through the collective struggle of the campus press to recognize its imperative role in preserving the truth and upholding genuine democracy that student journalists and media practitioners will contribute to nation-building and social advancement.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM**

CEGP Baguio-Benguet Congress aims to:

- ➤ Consolidate school/university publications across Metro-Baguio and Benguet
- > Consult school/university publications about their situation two years into the pandemic
- > Launch journalism skills training and workshops to train campus journalists and media practitioners
- > Launch discussions on the general situation of campus press national and Cordillera-wide
- > Reinforce and mobilize the regional alliance and the campus journalists themselves in the pursuit of championing the truth

#### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAM**

**DAY 1: October 8, 2022** 

Time	Activity
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Preliminaries
9:15 - 9:20 AM	Opening Remarks and Rationale
9:20 - 10:30 AM	CEGP Orientation
10:30 - 10:40 AM	Intermission/Ice breaker
10:40 - 12:00 NN	Discussion: Press Situation and Historical truth
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Photo Ops
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Training orientation and groupings
1:15 - 2:30 PM	Journalism Skills Training Proper:
	Editorial Writing
	News Writing
	Feature Writing



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	Editorial Cartooning
	Multimedia
2:30 - 4:00 PM	Workshop-Contest
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Sharing of learnings
4:30 - 4:45 PM	Closing remarks

### DAY 2; October 9, 2022

Time	Activity	
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Registration	
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Preliminaries	
9:15 - 10:15 AM	Discussion: Fact-checking, Combating Disinformation	
10:15 - 10:30 AM	Pub-Media Caucus (School pub sit, issues)	
10:30 - 11:30AM	Reporting of Publications and Organizations	
11:30 - 12:30 NN	Lunch	
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Caueus on the ways forward for campus press	
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Reporting	
1:15 - 1:45 PM	Manifesto of Unity signing	
1:45 - 2:15 PM	Election of CEGP Cordi Executive Committee	
2:15 - 2:30 PM	Messages of solidarity	
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Awarding of Winners in Writing Contest	
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Closing remarks, Photo ops	