

Education Reimagined

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3 December 2019 | Makati Shangri-La, Makati City

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Dr. Astrid S. Tuminez is the first female President of the Utah Valley University (UVU). She leads UVU in providing inclusive education through its open admissions policy and the dual mission of higher education, which combines community college and university education under one roof, giving community college students an easier path to a university education if desired, and offering all students richer learning experience.

USE HIGHER EDUCATION TO INCLUDE, NOT TO EXCLUDE

UVU has programs for first-generation college students that can be adapted for Filipinos with a similar background and/or need for further preparation. These include foundational coursework, tutoring services from successful students, and a whole-person approach in advising beyond academics.

UVU also has adaptable programs for working students. This includes counting skill-specific certifications from employers in students' credentials. They can also enroll in one course at a time, allowing them to stay enrolled even if their work prevents them from taking more loads in school.

UVU also helps mothers return to college via lactation pods and childcare centers.

BREAK DOWN KNOWLEDGE SILOS

The richer learning environment of UVU's dual education model may be replicated in Philippine college and tech-voc institutions. For example, UVU offers 44 certificate programs including cabinetry and architectural woodwork, 65 associate degrees including dance, along with 91 bachelors, 11 masters, and 30 online degrees. Dr. Tuminez says these encourage students to explore the "microcosm of the world of knowledge."

Let us not silo knowledge anymore. Let us use our resources so students are exposed at an early age to this mingling of knowledge because the 21st Century no longer respects silos. It's all the more varied you are, the more multidisciplinary your brain is, the better you're going to be in life and in careers.

Dr. Astrid S. Tuminez

PARTNER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

UVU has a partnership with school districts called the K-16 Alliance that may have insights for Philippine efforts to dovetail its relatively new K-12 system with higher education. These include helping set goals in primary and secondary education, such as identifying the reading level per year, to ensure that students are prepared for college.

UVU partnered with Silicon Slopes -- Utah's Silicon Valley -- to launch a new MBA degree that focuses on technology management. Lectures are held in company offices so employees can easily take their MBA. Half of the lecturers are industry practitioners who promote mentoring and link students directly to potential employers. ■

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