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CSB delegates attend Pittsburgh conference

A Postsecondary Education Network - International (PEN-International) Training Seminar was recently held in conjunction with the Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPnet) Conference that PEN-International co-hosted in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Delegates from the DLS-College of Saint Benilde (Rose Marie Salazar-Clemeña, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Ms. Florisa Punsalan, School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies (SDEAS) Deaf Counselor, and Ms. Joy L. Cristal, SDEAS Hearing Counselor and Head of the Office for Deaf Esteem and Formation (O-DEAF)) participated in the seminar.

The seminar, which included a business meeting with PEN partners and workshops, was part of CSB's membership in the PEN-International Project, spearheaded by the National Technological Institute for the Deaf of the Rochester Institute of Technology (NTID-RIT) in Rochester, New York. The different activities during the seminar aimed to provide participants with in-depth opportunities to develop their skills as educators of Deaf students and strengthen the bond among educators involved in Deaf Education.

The CSB delegates joined the other PEN-International partners from Tsukuba College of Technology, Tianjin University of Technology and Bauman Moscow State Technical University during the meeting. Dr. James J. DeCaro, Professor at NTID and Director of PEN-International, Mr. William E. Clymer, PEN-International Coordinator, and Ms. Mary Lamb, PEN-International/NTID Senior Staff, along with Mr. Tomoko Tsutsui and Ms. Ishii Yasunobu from the Nippon Foundation of Japan, were also present.

The workshops and professional sessions attended by CSB delegates were as follows: "Personal and Career Counseling Theory and Strategies with Deaf College-Age Students"; "Using an Interpreter in the Classroom"; "Strategies for Increasing Student Interaction in the Classroom"; and "Overview of the RIT and NTID Cooperative Education Experience."

CSB delegates attended the poster sessions, plenary sessions and some of the relevant professional sessions, which were held in celebration of the conference theme "Planning for Success: Initiatives for Positive Outcomes." The most inspiring of the sessions was the one graced by Marilyn Smith, with her talk entitled, "A Wild Patience Has Taken Me this Far: Wisdom from a Life." Ms. Smith is the Deaf founder of the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS). In summary, Ms. Smith shared how she successfully overcame her painful experiences as a Deaf woman, how she became an instrument to help other Deaf women and how ADWAS (as an all-deaf organization) struggles in a society that is often unfamiliar with and unfriendly to the Deaf.

The rare opportunity to meet fellow educators who participated in the PEPNet Conference strengthened the CSB delegation's awareness and desire to contribute to the collaboration of schools and organizations serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the Philippines since collaboration is the very heart of the conference. After all, PEPNet is

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the national collaboration of the four Regional Postsecondary Education Centers for Individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The four regions are the Western Region Outreach Center & Consortium (WROCC), the Midwest Center for Postsecondary Outreach (MCPO), the Postsecondary Education Consortium (PEC) and the Northeast Technical Assistance Center (NTAC).

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