

TEMA

"Mapanurri, Mapananindigan,
at Mapanagutang Pamamahayag"
(Critical, Principled, and Accountable Journalism)



PODIUM HITS FOR CARAGA CAMPUS JOURNALIST AT NSPC 2026

By Pedro A. Tecson

The Department of Education – Caraga Region (Region XIII) proudly celebrates the outstanding performance of its secondary-level campus journalists who earned top placements at the 2026 National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) held in Ormoc City, Leyte, April 13-17, 2026.

Demonstrating excellence in journalism, broadcasting, and multimedia storytelling, the Caraga delegation secured multiple podium and finalist finishes across individual

and group categories, affirming the region's commitment to critical, principled, and accountable journalism.

In the individual writing and visual journalism categories, Caraga posted strong results, led by Reliame Mandang-ulan, who placed third place in News Writing, and Annica Dianne Laid, who earned third place in Photojournalism.

The region also made its mark in specialized events, with Kirstene Jene Bayang securing second place in Mobile Journalism (Exhibition Category – English), while other participants finished among the national top five in editorial cartooning, sports news writing, and copyediting and headline writing. ➔ Page 2

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Caraga journalists likewise excelled in Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English), Ylza Therese Yecyec emerged as first place, Best Anchor, followed by Francis Gabriel Gilo in second place. Reynald Samuel Goco clinched first place, Best News Presenter, underscoring the region's strong tradition in broadcast journalism. As a team, Caraga also placed fifth in both Best Radio Production and Best Infomercial nationwide.

In Television Scriptwriting and Broadcasting, Caraga continued its impressive showing, Reinhart John Omos captured first place, Best TV Anchor (English), with Kirstene Jene Bayang placing second in the same category. The region also garnered high finishes in Best TV Production, Best Development Communication, Best Director, and Best TV Anchor (Filipino), marking Caraga's versatility across English and Filipino broadcast events.

Education officials commended the student-journalists for their discipline, creativity, and resilience throughout the national competition, noting that their achievements reflect the sustained efforts of schools and divisions in nurturing responsible campus journalism.



The collective success of the delegation highlights the strong support system behind Caraga's campus press movement.

The Department of Education – Caraga extends its congratulations to all winners and finalists and reaffirms its commitment to strengthening journalism programs that empower learners to inform, engage, and inspire their communities.



WRITING & VISUAL JOURNALISM



News Writing
Reliame Mandang-ulan – Third Place



Sports News Writing (Filipino)
Andrhea Denise Vale – Fifth Place



Editorial Cartooning
Donna Claire Cabillas – Fifth Place



Editorial Cartoon Drawing (Filipino)
Christian Joeren Anguit – Fifth Place



Photojournalism
Annica Dianne Laid – Third Place



Copyediting & Headline Writing (Filipino)
Marky Brylle Cortes – Fourth Place



Mobile Journalism
(Exhibition Category – English)
Kirstene Jene Bayang – Second Place



Daisy M. Cabusog
Caraga's Outstanding Elementary School Paper Adviser



Hermelita S. Toralba
Caraga's Outstanding Secondary School Paper Adviser



SECONDARY



RADIO SCRIPTWRITING & BROADCASTING (ENGLISH)



Best Anchor

👉 Ylza Therese Yecyec – First Place

👉 Francis Gabriel Gilo – Second Place



Best News Presenter

👉 Reynald Samuel Goco – First Place

👉 Katherine Cespon – Fourth Place



Best Radio Production

Reynald Samuel Goco Fifth Place

Katherine Cespon



Best Infomercial

Reynald Samuel Goco Fifth Place

Katherine Cespon





SECONDARY



TV SCRIPTWRITING & BROADCASTING



Best Anchor (English)

- 👉 Reinhart John Omos – First Place
- 👉 Kirstene Jene Bayang – Second Place



Best Director (English)

- 👉 Candice Bravo – Fifth Place



Best TV Production

- 👉 English Category – Silver Tiu, Fourth Place
- 👉 Filipino Category – Fifth Place (CARAGA)



Best Development Communication

- 👉 English Category – Silver Tiu, Fifth Place
- 👉 Filipino Category – Fifth Place (CARAGA)



Best Anchor (Filipino)

- Aiphrell Anne Morada – Fourth Place



Individual Writing Event

- Niel Mae Casilum
- 5th Place Column Writing (Secondary Filipino)



Kerwin D. Membrado

Coach: TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting



ELEMENTARY



Writing Categories
 Crey Phil Xander Rivera
 News Writing (English) – Fifth Place
 Maria Andrea Santillan
 Pagsulat ng Balita (Filipino) – Fifth Place



Princess Athenia Plaza
 Editorial Writing (English) – Fourth Place

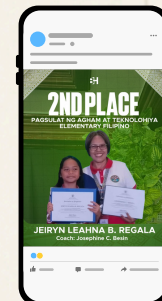


Lady Merlie Leighton Poculan
 Feature Writing (English) – Third Place

Joshua Arienza
 Pagwawasto ng Sipi at Pag-uulo ng Balita – First Place



Jeiryn Leahna Regala
 Pagsulat ng Artikulong Agham at Teknolohiya – Second Place



Ma. Belle Francheska Alac
 Column Writing (English) – Second Place



Visual Journalism

Joash Malate
 Photojournalism (English) – Second Place



Sheirayah Brice Lasala
 Editorial Cartooning (English) – Second Place



Radio Scriptwriting & Broadcasting (Elementary – Filipino)

CARAGA (Region Entry)
 Best Infomercial – Fourth Place





By Dr. Gladys S. Asis
Regional Journalism Coordinator

Padayon Caraga: Quiet Victories, Loud Purpose at NSPC 2026

With grateful hearts, we share Caraga's journey in the National Schools Press Conference 2026 held in Ormoc City, Leyte (April 13–17).

We may not have reached the championship this year, but we come home deeply thankful—for the experience, the lessons, and the quiet victories that shaped our young journalists and their coaches.

Across Individual and group events, our learners gave their best in writing, broadcasting, and visual storytelling. They stood on the national stage with courage, representing not only their schools but the voice of Caraga. We are humbled by the recognitions received, including 2nd Place Overall Secondary, 3rd Place Secondary Group, 2nd Place Secondary individual, 3rd place Elementary Individual and awards in both English and Filipino categories, as well as honors for our exhibition booth.



But beyond the results, what we value most are the things not seen on the scoreboard—discipline, resilience, teamwork, and the willingness to keep learning.



Our deepest gratitude goes to the Top Management of DepED Caraga, our Schools Division Offices, and our school heads and teachers, whose leadership and guidance made this journey possible. We also extend our sincere appreciation to our stakeholders and partners, and to everyone who generously shared their time, resources, and unwavering support for our budding journalists.

To our learners, thank you for carrying Caraga with pride and humility.

To our coaches, resource speakers and mentors, thank you for guiding with patience and heart.

To God, for everything. ❤️

We return home Inspired, grounded, and more determined to grow.
Padayon, Caraga!



OPINION



By Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO III
Regional Director

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR



BEYOND THE BYLINES:

Purpose, Persistence, and the Golden Spirit of Caraga



With a heart full of gratitude and profound appreciation. I want to express my deepest thanks and congratulations to each and every one of our CaraGold family for your incredible performance at the NSPC 2026.

I am truly humbled by your determination and persistence.

You faced the challenges and oddities with unwavering courage, and that spirit is a victory in itself. Your setbacks are not failures; they are part of your development towards becoming better journalists and even better persons.

Remember that and always hold it close to your hearts. Your victories are worth celebrating, not just the awards on the scoreboard, but the ones you felt in your

hearts and the ones we felt from afar. Your hard work, discipline, and willingness to learn are truly admirable.

To our coaches, resource speakers, and mentors, thank you for your patience and heart. And to God, for everything. Always remember that the DepEd Caraga leadership will always be behind you to support you. You have made us incredibly proud.

Padayon, Caraga! Let us continue to inspire and empower our budding journalists.

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR
BEYOND
Purpose, Persistence,
Perseverance.

With a heart full of gratitude and profound respect, I am truly humbled by your determination and persistence.

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