



**Metrobank Foundation, Inc.**

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**METROBANK FOUNDATION NAMES OUTSTANDING TEACHERS FOR 2010**

Eight public school teachers from the elementary and secondary levels, including two professors from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and De La Salle University, emerged as winners in this year's Metrobank Foundation Search for Outstanding Teachers.

In this 26<sup>th</sup> year of the Search, Mlang, Cotabato; Calauag, Quezon; and Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay produced their first Outstanding Teacher awardees.

The awardees for the elementary category are: Grace U. Salvatus of Municipal Sector Elementary School (Calauag, Quezon); Miladith B. Polutan of Oroquieta City Central Elementary School (Oroquieta City); Conchita A. Ibarondo of San Antonio Elementary School (Iriga City); and Nancy S. Aquino of Mlang Pilot Elementary School (Mlang, Cotabato).

For the secondary category, they are: Janeth Morata-Fuentes of Philippine Science High School-Eastern Visayas Campus (Palo, Leyte); Mercidita S. Villamayor of Bukidnon State University-Secondary School Lab (Malaybalay City); Estrelita A. Peña of Kabasalan National High School (Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay); and Mercelita J. Labial of Xavier University High School (Cagayan de Oro City).

While Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara of the University of the Philippines-Diliman and Dr. Raymund C. Sison of De La Salle University are the awardees for the higher education category.

“The Metrobank Foundation believes that by giving recognition to the outstanding qualities, achievements and contributions of our beloved educators, we promote a sense of pride in and provide inspiration to the teaching profession and to the rest of the society,” said Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto M. Sobrepeña. “For over 26 years, we have envisioned our awardees to serve as infrastructure for continuing excellence and to provide greater impact on their respective spheres of influence,” he continued.

The winners were selected from 156 nominees coming from various public and private educational institutions in the Philippines, of which 40 qualified as regional finalists. The regional finalists underwent interviews and teaching demonstrations before the members of the preliminary board of judges identified for each category. Twenty (20) national finalists then were selected to become the national finalists.

The national finalists then faced the Final Board of Judges for this year's Search co-chaired by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura. Also serving as judges were: Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chairman Francisco T. Duque III; Australian Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Rod Smith; San Beda College President Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan; and Shell Companies in the Philippines Country Chairman Mr. Edgar O. Chua.

This year's Outstanding Teachers will be conferred with gold medallions by His Excellency President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III in Malacañang. They will also be presented with plaques and cash amounting to Php 300,000 each during the formal awarding ceremonies at Metrobank Plaza in Makati, which will serve as the highlight of the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company on September 3, 2010.

This year's winners will join the rank of 286 outstanding teachers, who have been honored by the Foundation since 1985. They automatically become members of the Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators or NOTED, an honor society of outstanding teachers committed to nurturing a culture of excellence and service among educators through professional development, publications, research, and advocacy in active partnership with government and non-government organizations.

Now on its 26<sup>th</sup> year, the Search bestows honor upon the teaching profession by according special recognition to teachers who manifest profound commitment to the development of the youth through exemplary competence, remarkable dedication to their work, and an effective educational leadership. Recently, the Search has been awarded the Grand Anvil, the highest recognition during the 45<sup>th</sup> Anvil Awards given by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP). Over the years, the Search has become a sought-after award among educators as it earned the prestige of becoming a benchmark of excellence in the teaching profession.

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The Metrobank Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of the Metrobank Group, was established by its chairman Dr. George S.K. Ty in 1979. With the theme “*Excel. Engage. Empower.*” the Foundation has promoted a culture of excellence among Filipinos through its various programs, such as the Search for Outstanding Teachers (SOT), the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE), the Search for The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS), Country’s Outstanding Policemen in Service (COPS), the Metrobank Math Challenge (MMC), and College Scholarship Program (CSP). The Foundation also engages its partners and awardees in different activities geared towards giving back to the society. Through these initiatives, the Metrobank Foundation empowers its awardees and partners to become better citizens of the community. As part of its contributions to help improve health care services in the country, Dr. Ty donated a two-hectare lot along Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, costing about P1.2 billion, that would be the site of a modern tertiary medical center complex. This new hospital, once completed, will have a 1,000-bed capacity, making it one of the biggest hospitals in the country owned by a not-for-profit organization.



**ELEMENTARY LEVEL**

- 1. MRS. GRACE U. SALVATUS**  
Municipal Sector Elementary School  
***Calauag East District, Calauag, Quezon***  
Current Position: Master Teacher I  
Field of Specialization: English  
No. of Years Teaching: 14 years

Mrs. Salvatus introduced a one-on-one teacher-pupil guided reading activity to address non-readers — the Project GRACE (Guided Reading Activity for Comprehension Enhancement) which she entitled after her first name. The reading intervention is coupled with a peer coaching strategy, dubbed as “Pupil Mentor-Mentee Time” wherein an able reader are given the opportunity to teach the less able readers at the same time equipping them with the necessary reading comprehension skills. Hence, she envisions them as young leaders serving as mentors to their peers. Another original work she innovated is the Concentrated Language Encounter which aides Grade I and II pupils to become enthusiastic readers and writers which is now being widely used by teachers in the primary level in their district. She also developed several starter books for Grade I & II pupils which she based on the environmental, nutritional, and cultural situations of the Filipino learners. In using these starter books, several teacher trainings and workshops were spearheaded by Mrs. Salvatus for primary level teachers for its full implementation. Her expertise in teaching beginning reading is being sought by her fellow teachers serving as the mentor of the National English Proficiency Program (NEPP) in the DepEd Division of Quezon Province. Being a member of a community organization—The Young Professionals of Calauag, allows her to participate in an annual six-month feeding program to address the problem of malnutrition among indigent children. She was once involved with the Rotary Club of Calauag for their literacy project providing schools materials for indigent children.

- 2. MRS. MILADITH B. POLUTAN**  
Oroquieta City Central Elementary School  
***Oroquieta City***  
Current Position: Master Teacher I  
Field of Specialization: SPED (Multiple Disabilities & Visual Impairment)  
No. of Years Teaching: 18 years

Since 1996, she has been teaching visually impaired pupils and those with multiple disabilities and mental retardation in the DepEd Division of Oroquieta City. Her pupils range from 1 to 20 years of age who come from different barangays in their city including neighboring municipalities. Before, some of these individuals have not gone into any schooling while others were enrolled as regular pupils in the different grade levels such that their situations are not being looked at, mixing them with the able ones. There came Mrs. Polutan who taught these individuals with visual impairment to read and write through the Braille System including the use of large print materials. Her hard work bore fruits when these pupils learned to read with comprehension and can even perform solutions to mathematical problems with accuracy and

competence. *“Changes crept in like autumn shedding leaves for the coming winter. My once normal first graders were now replaced with children with special needs. Gazing but not seeing, communicating but not talking, going but not walking, others look typical but do not learn typically. These aptly describe all of them. This is quite a formidable task but I took the challenge,”* said Mrs. Polutan. Her diligence materialized even more when these individuals were successfully mainstreamed with the regular classes. Meanwhile, she extends her time to provide home-based instruction for those aged 1-5 years old as she believes that this is the only way to encourage parents to enroll their children with special needs in school. She was able to initiate and facilitate ways and means in providing her pupils with the food, transportation, sessions with physical and occupational therapists, health check-ups, assistive devices, and even school supplies. These were accomplished through an organization which she established — the Oroquieta Parents Advocate for Children with Disabilities engaging parents, the government, NGOs, businesses, the academe, and other interested stakeholders in addressing various problems, challenges, and issues in responsible parenthood to children with special needs. She is also an active member of the Strategic Alliance for Networking on Disabilities (STAND), a joint undertaking with the Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental that provides support to physically-disadvantaged individuals in terms of healthcare services, equipment support (e.g. canes, walkers, standers, wheelchairs, brailers, optical & communication devices, etc.). *“Seeing pupils walk on their own, do chores, play like a normal kid, laugh with their hearts out, give me a deep sense of fulfillment and happiness,”* expressed Mrs. Polutan taking pride that some of her students have gone to pursuing their high school and tertiary education, while others have managed to earn a living as lecturers, preachers, masseurs, and musicians, and are now engaged in some livelihood projects.

### **3. MRS. CONCHITA A. IBARONDO**

San Antonio Elementary School

***Iriga South District, Iriga City***

Current Position: Master Teacher II

Field of Specialization: Filipino

No. of Years Teaching: 39 years

At the age of 60, Mrs. Ibarondo holds the longest years in the teaching service (39 years) in this year's roster of Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers. She manifests that genuine commitment to provide the necessary learning and guidance for the underachievers, not only serving as their teacher but by being a mother to them as well. She teaches Grade II pupils in the lowest section composed of non-readers and slow learners belonging to low socio-economic status and are not well nourished in terms of nutritional requirements. This has led her to conduct researches regarding the common causes of poor performance among intermediate pupils. Through the conduct of summer tutorial activities for slow learners within a 3 year period, she was able to increase their comprehension skills and improve their reading abilities. She also introduced several innovative teaching approaches sharing it with her co-teachers in seminar workshops and trainings, one of which is what she calls the Eclectic Method of Teaching combining the different methods of teaching. She has created evaluation instruments and review materials also for the National Achievement Test (NAT) being used widely by the whole DepEd Division of Iriga City. Mrs. Ibarondo is involved with a community organization whose projects focus mainly on the improvement of health and sanitation facilities, including cleanliness and beautification in their barangay. She is also an active member of a parish organization, being the president of the Catholic Women's League of the Our Lady of Salvacion Parish in their city.

#### **4. MRS. NANCY S. AQUINO**

Mlang Pilot Elementary School

***Mlang, Cotabato***

Current Position: Master Teacher II

Field of Specialization: Filipino

No. of Years Teaching: 16 years

*"I reach and I teach."* Mrs. Aquino lives by this rule in teaching elementary students in Cotabato. She made several innovations in her field to be able to reach out to students and teach them the fundamental knowledge in their elementary curriculum. Some of her innovations are: ECAME (Every Child a Math Enthusiast), VBEA (Vocabulary Building Enrichment Activities), and EHP (Enhancing Handwriting Program). Her profession and mantra goes beyond the four walls of the classroom as she is the instructional manager of the ELSA IR2 ALS (Education, Livelihood and Skills Alliance Intermediate Result 2 Alternative Learning System). Through ELSA IR2 ALS she was able to reach out to the out-of-school-youths to continue their search for knowledge and develop their livelihood skills. Through this program, she was able to produce 6 passers in the Accreditation and Equivalency Test due to the intensive review offered to the learners. As a person of influence in her community, Mrs. Aquino mentors an organization in their *barangay* that implements clean and green projects.

### **SECONDARY LEVEL**

#### **5. MRS. JANETH MORATA-FUENTES**

Philippine Science High School (PSHS)-Eastern Visayas Campus

***Palo, Leyte***

Current Position: Special Science Teacher III

Field of Specialization: Chemistry

No. of Years Teaching: 12 years

Mrs. Morata-Fuentes is the youngest in this year's roster of Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers (33 *years old*). This young mentor has already accomplished numerous projects in education which are usually done by her contemporaries at a much later age. She is instrumental in the creation of an enhanced research program of the PSHS-Eastern Visayas Campus that underscores scientific and technical researches as key to the learning of science and math in their school. Researches conducted by students allow them to become stewards in their respective communities. Under her supervision, two (2) studies on microbiology and environmental science of her students won in the 2010 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in California, USA. Some of her students have also won in several regional and national science fair competitions, including the yearly student representations in the RITS Super Science Fair in Kyoto, Japan. Mrs. Morata-Fuentes also serves as the project leader for the Environmental Monitoring and Biodiversity Assessment Program of PSHS Regional Campuses. She was involved with a 3-year study that assessed and monitored water quality parameters of two (2) marine sanctuaries in Leyte and Samar aimed at determining whether these bodies of water are still capable of promoting aquatic life. She has created also instructional materials in Chemistry, one of which is a published laboratory manual of the subject being used as a reference material. As a result, her efforts paved way for the formalization of a Curriculum Development Committee that encourages other teachers to create instructional materials for evaluation and publication.

**6. MRS. MERCIDITA S. VILLAMAYOR**

Bukidnon State University-Secondary School Laboratory

**Malaybalay City**

Current Position: Associate Professor III

Field of Specialization: Mathematics

No. of Years Teaching: 27 years

As a professor in the secondary school laboratory class of Bukidnon State University, Mrs. Villamayor has been mainly involved with its 4-fold thrusts —Instruction, Extension, Research, and Production. She has produced instructional materials and workbooks in mathematics that have led in the improvement of math instruction in their laboratory classes. Her researches range from identifying teaching styles preferred by students to policy recommendations on improving the learning environment for students, as well researches on work values among university personnel. Mrs. Villamayor is also a sought-after resource speaker and facilitator for various seminars and workshops for teachers in their locality. She has worked with PNP Region X in establishing a pre-school called the PNP Ladies Club Learning Center that later became an adopted school of their university. She is an expert when it comes to floral arrangements (i.e. Ikebana), thus, this skill of hers has allowed doors of opportunities for the indigenous *Lumad* community to improve their living conditions when she conducted training for them on floral arrangements. The *Lumads* used to sell *sampaguita* garlands but with the opportunity that Mrs. Villamayor provided to them, skills were improved such that they are now accepting floral arrangements during wedding and other occasions to augment their meager income. Her various accomplishments in community service were recognized by the City Government of Malaybalay, PNP Region X, Regional Development Council of Region X, and the Rotary Club of Malaybalay City.

**7. MRS. ESTRELITA A. PEÑA**

Kabasalan National High School

**Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay**

Current Position: Master Teacher I

Field of Specialization: English

No. of Years Teaching: 11 years

She is one of the many teachers in Mindanao whose life as a teacher posts great danger considering the many reported cases of teachers being kidnapped or abducted by secessionist groups. Despite the problem of peace and order situation in the area, this has not hindered Mrs. Peña to fulfill her duties as a teacher whose professional life has been devoted into making a difference in the lives of others. She founded the SAGIP-A-STUDENT Drop-Out Reduction Advocacy Association, Inc., an organization that aims to reduce the high incidence of student drop-outs in her school composed of students, teachers, parents, local government officials, and community volunteers. They have raised funds as means of extending financial support to students classified as SARDOs (Students at Risk of Dropping Out) wherein they were able to reduce the drop-out rate from 7.25% to 3.5%. To date, over 600 students have benefitted and were able to finish high school. The organization has also implemented other intervention programs like: a reading remediation activity entitled *A Word to Teach the World*; lodging and school materials support to 90 students under the *Adopt a Student Program* and *Project Mo, Sagot Ko!*; and livelihood trainings for student beneficiaries under the *SARDO Working Youth Program*. Their projects have been adopted by 64 schools and are now being benchmarked by other DepEd Divisions. Mrs. Peña is currently sourcing for funds for the construction of a dormitory and a learning center for these students, which the provincial government has already supported (*gave P500, 000*). She hopes to receive more funding support from various

government agencies and private entities at present. Outside the school, Mrs. Peña has organized series of concerts as a fund-raising activity for the construction of a Formation Center in their church. She is also an advocate of the environment having been organized seminars, symposia and tree planting activities in their community. As a member of a religious organization, the Divine Mercy Crusade, they have reached out also to prisoners by providing them spiritual counseling, legal, and financial assistance. *"I am an unknown teacher from an unknown distant province of Zamboanga Sibugay. This recognition as an Outstanding Teacher serves as an inspiration to my colleagues—knowing, despite our distance, we still have an opportunity for our efforts to be recognized,"* said Mrs. Peña.

**8. MRS. MERCELITA J. LABIAL**

Xavier University High School

**Cagayan de Oro City**

Current Position: English Department Chair Senior Faculty

Field of Specialization: English

No. of Years Teaching: 16 years

Teaching nowadays has become advanced with the advent of technology. Teachers are now learning to integrate technology in their classroom instruction. One of which is the use of the internet in order to make learning more fun and interesting. Mrs. Labial is one of those who adopted the use of the internet in facilitating discussions and forums off-school for her students, a kind of distance learning. E-groups, e-mails, and social networking sites serve as channels for Mrs. Labial to maximize learning opportunities of which students can freely express themselves and reflect about their lessons. This has become advantageous for her as a teacher in order to address the immediate concerns and queries of her students and has become useful for her in the evaluation and measurement of student performances. This teaching innovation of Mrs. Labial has been instituted and was shared to other teachers influencing them to shift from the traditional to a constructivist approach of teaching. She also conducted another training-workshop for teachers in the DepEd Division of Cagayan de Oro City specifically on the use of technology in teaching English Language and Literature which was funded by the International Research and Exchanges (IREX) Board. Outside the school, Mrs. Labial is busy implementing a literacy program for young girls who were victims of rape, abandonment, and other types abuses who are under the custody of DSWD. Called LIPAD (Literacy Program for the Advancement of DSWD Girls), the program is conducted every first Friday of the month by the English Department and School of Education Graduate School Council of Xavier University. As president of Xavier University High School Community Club, she was able to provide an all-expense paid training workshop for teachers and para-teachers belonging to the Indigenous Peoples (IP). A city-guided tour as well for graduating students from Miarayan, Talakag, Bukidnon was organized by them in order for them to experience life in the city. Mrs. Labial has also trained the police force in Region X and Mindanao in terms of improving their communication skills and speech delivery and has trained personnel of the Philippine Ports Authority on technical writing and oral communications.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION LEVEL**

### **9. DR. ROWENA CRISTINA L. GUEVARA**

University of the Philippines-Diliman

***Diliman, Quezon City***

Current Position: Professor VI

Field of Specialization: Digital Signal Processing

No. of Years Teaching: 24.6 years

Dr. Guevara served as the proponent and program leader of the ERDT (Engineering Research and Development for Technology) Program being spearheaded by a consortium of universities and colleges offering engineering courses. ERDT is a P3 billion investment in order to address the country's global competitiveness through the achievement of a critical mass of Filipino engineers with advanced degrees. The ERDT Consortium makes graduate engineering studies accessible to Filipinos and helps engineering colleges build their faculty complement. To date, the program has assisted numerous scholars in the graduate program including visiting researchers, postdoctoral fellows, visiting professors, and foreign PhD scholars. International conference papers and the conduct of conferences and technology entrepreneurship summer classes were among the other accomplishments of the Consortium. UP Diliman has benefitted also from the program since a technology business incubator was recently opened to support scholars and start-up companies including the construction of 6 buildings for the UP College of Engineering to house new research laboratories. Having been served as dean of the UP College of Engineering, she has convinced the university to open freshmen block sections to give freshmen a peer support system and help them adapt to college life. As a result, the percentage of freshmen who graduated improved specifically on the passing rate for Math 17 for students enrolled in the block sections, higher than those who were not in the block sections. Another notable achievement of Dr. Guevara is the breakthrough Inter-disciplinary Signal Processing for Pinoys (ISIP) Program that started in 2007. The program brought together researchers from various disciplines to focus on the Filipino language and speech as these relate to education and the differently-abled individuals. As the proponent and program leader of ISIP, they have instituted projects that address the pressing issue in our country's educational system by technology intervention in language and speech. With her expertise on Digital Signal Processing, Dr. Guevara redesigned an engineering subject in UP —Signals & Systems with the idea that the mathematical formula will look less formidable if students will *hear, see, and play* with them first in the laboratory. The passing rate then for this subject went from 70% to 90%.

### **10. DR. RAYMUND C. SISON**

De La Salle University

***Taft Ave., Manila***

Current Position: Full Professor VI

Field of Specialization: Software Engineering

No. of years teaching: 23 years

Dr. Sison is the first and probably the only one in the country to use, investigate the effectiveness, and improve an innovative approach to learning programming called "Pair Programming." Pair programming is a collaborative approach to software design, programming, and testing which Dr. Sison introduced in 2005. Since then, he was able to study its effects on the productivity of student programmers and on the quality of their software products. He found out that the innovation can increase the quality of software solutions written by students for

programming problems that they find challenging. He has been presenting his innovation at the annual Asia-Pacific Software Engineering Conferences since 2005. Dr. Sison had also worked with professors from prestigious universities in Southeast Asia (i.e. National University of Singapore, University of Malaysia, Chulalongkorn University, and Vietnam National). Together with these professors, Dr. Sison led an ASEAN Foundation-funded project on software engineering practices and teaching these practices among ASEAN universities. Dr. Sison is also the founding president of the Computing Society of the Philippines (CSP) that organizes the annual Philippine Computing Science Congress and provides seminars for teachers and students nationwide. Not just a software engineer but also a teaching pastor. His passion for teaching extends outside the realm of Software Engineering. In 1999, he founded FORMDEV (Formation & Development), a program that aims to proclaim the Lasallian and Gospel values of faith, zeal, and love. Freshmen students of the College of Computer Science have to satisfy a 0.5 unit FORMDEV subject introducing them to the life and values of St. La Salle and at the same time enriching their spiritual orientation. A community of volunteers was also formed through FORMDEV that regularly conducts outreach activities for Habitat for Humanity Philippines, *Gawad Kalinga*, and Damas Orphanage in Paco, Manila. Outside the university, Dr. Sison serves as a pastor in his home church in Taytay, Rizal preaching before a large community of poor.