

Batasan Hills NHS mentor named QC's best teacher



Batasan Hills National High School teacher Joan Callope (sixth from left), Quezon City's Most Outstanding Teacher for 2019, poses with QC government officials headed by Vice Mayor Gian Carlo Sotto (sixth from right) and Second District Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo (fifth from right), and ABS-CBN's Korina Sanchez (fifth from left), who, in right photo, congratulates the best teacher. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BESTING 16,000 of her colleagues, a Batasan Hills National High School (NHS) mentor was named as Quezon City's (QC) Most Outstanding Teacher for 2019, based on four criteria measuring their students' achievements.

Joan Callope was named as the city's Most Outstanding Educator during QC's World Teachers' Day (WTD) celebration held at the Smart Araneta Coliseum last September 30, garnering the most accumulated scores in the following criteria: zero percent dropout rate, 100 percent promoted rate of students, 90 to 100 percent rate of good nutritional status of student that are beneficiaries of the school-based feeding program, and zero percent rate of non-readers and non-numerates.

Callope said the award serves as an opportunity for her school to get more support from the local government and different organizations.

"Maraming salamat sa QC government at Schools Division Office. *Hindi ko sasayangin itong pagkakataon, at untingnan ko ito bilang isang oportunidad dahil mas lalaki pa ang suporta na ibibigay sa akin at sa aking paaralan dahil sa pagkilala* (Thank you to the QC government and Schools Division Office. I will not waste this recognition and will look at it as an opportunity because this would mean added support for me and my school)," Callope added.

Quezon City also recognized 11 other educators as the best in their respective districts and levels.

Marites Letrodo of Project 6 Elementary School, Ferdinand Garcia of Holy Spirit Elementary School, Baby Agnes Galapia of Pura V. Kalaw Elementary School, and

Wind Love Cucal of Placido del Mundo Elementary School were named as best elementary teachers.

Pamela Desuyo of Lucrecia Kasilag Senior High School, Marvin Diaz of Quezon City High School, Lance Gerard Abalos of Balara High School, Ian Joen Noel Alvarez of Sta. Lucia High School, and Rowena Arcega of Culiat High School were in turn cited as the city's best high school teachers.

Edna Gerance of Commonwealth Elementary School and Annariza Alzate of Maligaya High School were named as best special education teacher and best alternative learning system teacher, respectively.

It is the second consecutive year that the QC government gave its 16,000-strong teaching force an exuberant tribute through its WTD 2019 Celebration, with the theme "*Gurong Filipino: Handa sa Makabagong Pagbabago.*"

October 5 is World Teachers' Day and October has been named Teachers' Month in the Philippines.

The celebration at the Smart Araneta Coliseum was put together in partnership with the Department of Education's (DepEd's) Schools Division Office Quezon City, Magna Anima Teachers' College, ABS-CBN, Araneta City, Smart Araneta Coliseum, Gerry Roxas Foundation and J. Amado Araneta Foundation.

The four-and-a-half-hour event, which started with a Thanksgiving



Mass officiated by Fr. Carmelo Caluag, Magna Anima director, was graced by luminaries from the local government of Quezon City and education sectors headed by Mayor Josefina Belmonte.

Also present were QC Vice Mayor Gian Carlo Sotto; City Administrator Michael Alimurung; Education Affairs Unit Head Aly Medalla; DepEd Undersecretary Jesus Lorenzo Mateo; DepEd-National Capital Region Director Malcolm Garma; Schools Division Superintendent Natividad Bayubay; Gerry Roxas Foundation President Judy Araneta Roxas; Gerry Roxas Foundation Executive Director Ma. Rosamund Parado; QC Police Department chief Col. Ronnie Montejo; QC Second District Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo; and Councilors Irene Belmonte, Winnie Castelo and Peachy de Leon.

QC Education Affairs Unit Head Julliene Alyson Rae Medalla said they hope the program would be held every year to commend teachers.

"We are so thankful for all your contributions to the education landscape of the city and we hope to continuously work with you to be able to uplift the quality of education in the city," Medalla said.

Arguably the most exciting part of the homage for teachers was the seamless production number showcasing 200 students of varied talents: the drum and lyre band of Ismael Mathay Sr. High School; Himig Scientia of Quezon City Science High School; Quirino High School Glee Club; Kasadyahan Dance Troupe of Commonwealth High School; Sinag Mananayaw Dance Troupe of Ernesto Rondon High School; Lucrecia Kasilag Senior High School Performing Arts Students; and the Pasundayag Dance Troupe of San Francisco High School. The musical and visual extravaganza was a testament to the nurturing nature of the city's teachers.

The Gerry Roxas Foundation, a partner of the education sector through its Leadership Award and development programs for students, also launched its Leadership Award for Best Management Practice of Principals during the WTD celebration.

The celebration was spiced up by the raffling off of cash prizes to the teachers, with six lucky individuals bringing home P50,000 each, courtesy of the QC government. The occasion was capped by a Tribute to Teachers by a roster of young ABS-CBN talents, with hosts Bianca Gonzales and Robi Domingo.