

NIÑOVAL F. PACAOL, MAED

Faculty, College of Education
Head, R&D Monitoring and Evaluation Office
Head, Research and Creative Works Office
Eastern Visayas State University
ninoval.pacaol@evsu.edu.ph

June 30, 2025

PEACE CORPS ALUMNI FOUNDATION FOR PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend, with confidence, Uriel Rei D. Balanga for the PCAFPD scholarship. I am a full-time faculty member of the Elementary Education Department – College of Education, a social science researcher, and currently designated as head of two offices under the Office of Research and Development at Eastern Visayas State University. I had the formal opportunity to meet the applicant in a senior high school course – Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction (DPRR). I also served as one of the panel evaluators of his solely co-authored research project during his eleventh grade. Mr. Balanga is generally a top-performing student in class who upholds the values of quality and excellence in academic settings.


The applicant consistently performed well in meeting academic requirements. He knew when and how to complete both individual and group tasks and demonstrated the ability to coordinate with his peers. Mr. Balanga has shown strength in academic and social communication, not necessarily in the traditional sense of reasoning, but in his ability to convey ideas effectively to others and to wider audiences. He can formulate, defend, and deconstruct ideas with clarity, equal to or even at par with those relatively above his level, as evidenced by his class engagements on topics such as the climate crisis, animal rights and protection, and social demographics.

In our DPRR course, which emphasized integration across knowledge systems—multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary—he demonstrated promise in all three, with strong developmental potential in the latter two. Mr. Balanga could, given a conducive environment for advanced learning, grow in these areas which are foundational for leadership. I am confident that he will continue to mature and eventually become a capable ally and advocate for sustainable development within the community. While he may specialize in political science or management, he shows a readiness to collaborate, compromise, and acknowledge input from peers, especially when provided with the right mentorship and guidance. In the end, his growth in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary will be crucial during his next four years as a college student.

The applicant is clearly on the right path toward acquiring advanced technical skills and essential competencies that are crucial for navigating this century of digitalization and fast-paced technological advancement—challenges the Philippines is currently confronting and preparing to overcome, in part, through contributions from its younger generation. I am confident that the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD), the institution where he has been admitted, will be instrumental in shaping Mr. Balanga's development as a community leader, especially in the areas of climate action and animal rights advocacy. While he has shifted from political science to management as his primary program in UPD, this opens an opportunity for him to approach his advocacies from a different lens—a trait that is consequential for a holistic and grounded practice of management.

I believe that my observations and reflections—as a teacher, researcher, and office manager—align well with the goals and vision of the PCAFPD scholarship. If I can be of further assistance or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



NIÑOVAL F. PACAOL, MAED

Faculty, Researcher, and Office Heads
Eastern Visayas State University