



Capiceña PWD scholar earns int'l master's degree

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ROXAS CITY, Capiz, Aug. 17 (PIA6) -- A Capiceña was among the 10 scholars who graduated for the degree in the Master's in Comparative and International Disability Policy (CIDP) program during the inaugural convocation ceremony last Aug. 14 at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Della Leonor, only scholar for the program in Western Visayas and among the six Filipino graduates for the degree, studied online at the American University of International Service based in Washington DC from August 2011.

The degree program is the world's first virtual Master's in disability policy and is offered by American University's School of International Service (SIS).

The program is offered through the Institute of Disability and Public Policy (IDPP) headed by its executive director Dr. Derrick Cogburn.

It is funded by The Nippon Foundation of Japan.

"We study via virtual learning in real time and also had a two week residency in Bangkok last year," Leonor said who became mobility-impaired after developing spastic displegia of the lower extremities.

She decided to apply to the CIDP program and The Nippon Foundation fellowship after receiving a link to the program's homepage from the NAPC council.

After reviewing the curriculum, Della discovered that a Master's degree in disability policy offered her a way to pursue her interest in cross-cultural collaboration, while equipping her with the tools necessary to affect policies that impact her daily life.

Additionally, the virtual nature of the CIDP program eliminated barriers that may otherwise preclude her from obtaining an American University degree.

She has been elected secretary of the First Regional Congress of Persons with Disabilities last July in Iloilo City aside from being the president of Persons With Disability (PWD) – Roxas City Chapter and a member of the Board of Directors of the World Association for Persons with Disabilities and Intellectual Disability Regional Representative for the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

The Capiceña scholar is an overseas manager and online tutor at Sky-Study Online English and works to provide more jobs for persons with disabilities in the information and communications technology sector.

She completed her B.A. in Commerce at Colegio De La Purisma Concepcion here.

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