



COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

## REGIONAL OFFICE I



### CHEDRO1 Regional Memorandum Order No. 23, Series of 2024

DATE : September 26, 2024

TO : **ALL PRESIDENTS / HEADS**  
Higher Education Institutions  
Region 1

SUBJECT : **2024 HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE ON GENDER ISSUES**

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1. In view of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Advisory No. 02, s. 2024 entitled, "Policy Advisory on the Rising Cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the Region, enjoining all government agencies who play an important role in the full implementation of the Republic Act No. 11166 or the Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act of 2018, to support and conduct projects, programs and activities in response to the growing concern about HIV/AIDS infections in Region 1 and the breaking of stigma for People Living with HIV (PLHIV). CHEDRO1, being a duty bearer of equity and inclusivity, recognizes the need to enhance collaboration with other agencies to inform Gender and Development focal persons, deans, department chairs, and students about current policies and the status of HIV/AIDS. Thus, this Office will conduct the **2024 Higher Education Conference on Gender Issues (HECGI)** with the theme *"Empowering Futures: Addressing HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education in Higher Education,"* on **October 10, 2024** at Urdaneta City University, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan.
2. This conference aims to:
  - a. **Raise awareness among future leaders and trainers of future leaders:** Higher education institutions educate the future leaders and influencers of society. A conference focused on HIV/AIDS awareness equips students and faculty with critical knowledge to advocate for public health initiatives.
  - b. **Address the vulnerable population:** Young adults, particularly in college settings, are at heightened risk for HIV. The conference can address their unique challenge and promote strategies for prevention and education.
  - c. **Foster collaboration:** Bringing together diverse stakeholders – students, faculty (GAD focal), deans and heads of health programs, DOH personnel – encourages collaboration and the sharing of resources to enhance HIV awareness and support services.
  - d. **Combat stigma:** Conferences provide opportunities to challenge stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS through open discussions, personal stories, and educational sessions, fostering a more supportive environment on campuses.
  - e. **Sustainability of Efforts:** By encouraging an annual conference, institutions can ensure continuous focus in HIV/AIDS awareness, building a culture of education and advocacy that extends beyond the event.





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3. The participants of the said activity include a **maximum of three (3) representatives** from each higher education institution (HEI), preferably one (1) each from the **Gender and Development Focal Points System (GFPS)**, **student leaders**, and **deans or program chairs from medicine, health, and biology programs**.
4. Participating HEIs are enjoined to comply with the provisions of CMO No. 63, s. 2017, for the safety and security of their students.
5. Participation in the said activity is **free**. Travel expenses and accommodation of the participants shall be shouldered by their respective sending HEIs.
6. The attendees are requested to confirm their participation in the activity by registering at the link, [https://bit.ly/HEC\\_registration](https://bit.ly/HEC_registration) or by scanning the QR code below:



7. For inquiries and related concerns, please contact **Dr. Ricky A. Cera** or **Dr. Maria Carmela L. Domocmat**, at this Office, at telephone numbers (072) 242 – 0238; (072) 682– 9623, cellphone no. 09175781134 or 0995-3654211, or email them at [chedro1@ched.gov.ph](mailto:chedro1@ched.gov.ph), cc: [rcera@ched.gov.ph](mailto:rcera@ched.gov.ph); [mcdomocmat@ched.gov.ph](mailto:mcdomocmat@ched.gov.ph).
8. Wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
**CHRISTINE N. FERRER, EdD**  
Director IV

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