

Stretching beyond Limitations: 2021 PAFTE-CAR Students' Congress

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The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused educational institutions to close, but the officers and members of the **Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators-Cordillera Administrative Region (PAFTE-CAR)** decided to beat the odds and aimed for greatness as the **Annual Students' Congress** was held through a webinar on **March 5, 2021**.

Intending to provide guidelines to student teachers in demonstrating efficiency in a distance learning modality, PAFTE-CAR conducted its annual regional students' congress using the technological software, Microsoft Teams, to stretch beyond the limitations laid out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stretching even more, the board and directors of PAFTE-CAR invited student-teachers from the different universities in CAR – **Saint Louis University, University of Baguio, University of the Cordilleras, Baguio State University, Ifugao State University, Apayao State College, Divine Word College of Bangued, and Easter College Incorporated**, as resource speakers of the said event.

Revolving around the theme *“Integrating Technological and Productivity Tools in Accomplishing Course Requirements for Distance Learning,”* the resource speakers shared their experiences and tips on how to survive the new mode of learning by maximizing resources and taking advantage of what technology has to offer.

With over a thousand faculty members and education students present, the event was proof that learning and professional development can happen despite the barriers of physical space.

Seeing the struggles and coping mechanisms during the shift to distance learning through the eyes of the student-teachers made this event more meaningful and relevant.

From sharing their most trusted applications to giving tips in caring for one's mental health, the speakers

from the different universities embodied the competencies expected of a 21st-century learner.

The three-hour event, albeit digital, was another step taken in preparing future educators to be flexible, innovative, and adept whenever unexpected situations impede the learning processes.

It was another platform for learning how to integrate technology into learning and to equip oneself with the necessary skills needed to survive in the modern world.

The 2021 PAFTE-CAR Students' Congress was in preparation for the next big thing that the field of education is yet to discover.