



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE
No. 09-2019

BATTLE OF THE BAMBOO 2019 SHOWCASES FILIPINO IDENTITY AND CULTURE IN THE U.S. MIDWEST



Filipino youth in the U.S. Midwest performing their rendition of a traditional Kalinga dance.

Chicago, 22 February 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, through Economic Officer Ryan Francis D. Gener, participated in *Battle of the Bamboo 2019: Tadhana – Choose Your Destiny* held at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) campus on 16 February 2019.

Battle of the Bamboo is an annual cultural dance showcase that has been hosted by *Filipinos in Alliance* at the University of Illinois at Chicago since 2003. It has grown to attract hundreds of spectators to watch dance groups from high schools and collegiate institutions located all over the Midwest. Battle of the Bamboo aims to connect and remind today's youth of Filipino traditions through learning, performing, and spectating cultural dance.

Filipino-American student organizations from Loyola University Chicago, Marquette University, Niles North High School, Northside College Prep, St. Louis University and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign competed in the event. In between their presentations, Fil-Am organizations from Lane Tech College Prep, Moku'aina Hula, the Ohio State University and University of Illinois at Chicago provided demonstrations.



Filipino youth in the Midwest dancing the Tinikling

Participants performed their own renditions of traditional Filipino dances and myths, infused with their own interpretation grounded on their understanding of their Filipino identity and culture. Loyola University's *Loyola Kapwa Cultural* group won for the third time in four years.

The Consulate also met briefly TFCU, which “strives to connect, inspire, and empower Filipino-American millennials helping them realize their full potential in relation to their cultural identity” through TFCU Talks around the US.

The Consulate was invited by the Philippine American Cultural Foundation (PACF), one of the major sponsors of the event, and was recognized during PACF’s sponsorship speech. PACF through Mr. Everett Icao promoted *Piyesta Pinoy*, which will be held in Bolingbrook, Illinois in celebration of our Independence Day on 8 June 2019.

The Consulate actively engages with Filipino youth in the Midwest through collaboration with various Filipino community organizations. Currently, it is actively promoting US Midwest Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (Midwest YouLeaD) Immersion Program, which brings Filipino youth leaders based in Midwest states to the Philippines to explore the beauty of our islands, learn about our culture and language, meet government officials, build houses and spend time with Filipino families. An initiative of Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, the next iteration of Midwest YouLeaD is tentatively scheduled on 03-09 January 2020. **END**