



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

**PRESS RELEASE NO. 57-2016**

19 September 2016

## **Chicago PCG's Ika-19 Pagkikita sa Konsulado Features Panel Discussion on Mental Health Organized by DIWA Chicago**

DIWA Chicago, in partnership with the Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago, hosted a panel discussion titled "Walang Hiya (No Shame)": The Filipino Immigration Experience and Addressing Well Being, during the "Ika-19 Pagkikita sa Konsulado" on 15 September 2016. DIWA Chicago is a diverse group of individuals concerned with attending to the emotional, social and psychological well-being of the members of the Filipino community.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Generoso DG Calonge acknowledged and thanked DIWA Chicago for organizing an event that provides opportunity to the members of Filipino community to come together to educate each other and talk about the mental health challenges faced by undocumented members of the community.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Maria Ferrera, an Assistant Professor in DePaul University Department of Social Work. The panelists included Mesdames Stephanie Camba, a Community Outreach Coordinator of Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE), Atty. Mary Carmen R. Madrid Crost, an immigration lawyer from the Madrid Crost Law Group, and Raquel Valencia-Hays, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Certified Addiction and other Drug Counselor (CADC) in the State of Illinois.

Photo opportunities and light reception capped the evening's event. -END-





**(Left) Consul General Calonge delivering his welcome remarks at the panel discussion “*Walang Hiya (No Shame)!*” at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General held on 15 September 2016; (Top Right) The moderator and panelists discussing the mental health challenges faced by undocumented members of the Filipino community; (Right) The well-attended Pagkikita sa Konsulado led to a fruitful exchange focusing on the experiences and challenges faced by undocumented Filipinos in the US.**

*Photos courtesy of Mr. Arneil Torres*