

# THE BITANGA–GIMÉNEZ SCHOLARS

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## Founder ' s Letter

To the families, educators, and students of Ilocos Norte,

I write this letter with deep respect—for the place where my family ' s story began, and for the young people whose futures are waiting to be shaped. The Bitanga–Giménez Scholars is a simple but heartfelt offering: a way of giving back to the community that formed the roots of my father ' s lineage, and a bridge between my life in Spain and my heritage in the Philippines.

Growing up Filipina and now raising my own family between Madrid and Manila, I ' ve learned that opportunity is one of the most powerful gifts a person can receive. It changes the direction of a life, a family, and eventually, a generation. This scholarship is my way of extending that possibility to students who have the talent, discipline, and determination—but may lack access to the support they deserve.

The Bitanga–Giménez Scholars program begins modestly, but with sincerity and commitment. Each year, we will support students whose academic dedication reflects the values my husband and I hope to pass on to our own children: hard work, integrity, and a belief in one ' s own potential. This initiative is designed to grow over time—thoughtfully, sustainably, and always centered on the youth of Ilocos Norte.

My hope is simple:

That this program becomes a small light for young people who dream of a wider world.

That it uplifts families.

And that it honors the Bitanga name and the Giménez family ' s dedication to education, culture, and service.

Thank you to the educators and administrators who make this work possible. I look forward to building this journey together, quietly and steadily, one scholar at a time.

With warmth and respect,

Christina Bitanga de Giménez  
Founder, Bitanga–Giménez Scholars  
Madrid & Manila