

17 November 2025

The Search Committee

Department of Biotechnology
Visayas State University
Baybay City, Leyte 6521-A

Application for Associate Professor V at the Department of Biotechnology (WUZTQA)

To the Chair and Members of the Search Committee:

I am writing to express my strong interest in the **Associate Professor V** position at the Department of Biotechnology of the Visayas State University (VSU). As a VSU alumna currently working as a postdoctoral research support staff at the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), with extensive experience in molecular biology and genetics, I am highly motivated by VSU's vision of becoming a global green university and its mission to advance science, technology, and education in service of societal transformation. I am enthusiastic about this opportunity to contribute to my alma mater's pursuit of excellence in instruction, innovative research, and impactful community engagement.

My diverse research experience has been focused on understanding the genetic and molecular mechanisms that drive complex traits and diseases (in microbial, plant, and animal species) integrating genomic analysis, computational modeling, and experimental validation. This interdisciplinary approach aligns directly with VSU's commitment to academic excellence in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Education 5.0, where biological insights increasingly rely on data-driven, technologically advanced methodologies. My 10 articles in peer-reviewed research journals, seven departmental reports, and 11 conference papers, demonstrate my ability not only to advance fundamental knowledge but also to produce high-impact, internationally recognized scholarship. Through collaborations with multidisciplinary scientists from at least four continents, I have helped translate basic discoveries into potential innovative practical solutions to local, national, and global challenges.

Teaching and mentoring are central to my identity as a scientist. I have mentored multiple undergraduate and graduate student researchers, guiding them in experimental design, quantitative analysis, and scientific writing. Several of these students have presented their work at conferences and/or pursued science careers. I have cultivated an instructional approach grounded in clarity, curiosity, and student empowerment, helping students develop 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and scientific communication. These experiences closely align with VSU's strategic objective of implementing holistic student development programs.

What draws me particularly to VSU is its emphasis on values that have been instilled in me as one of its graduates—service, truth, resilience, integrity, discipline, excellence, and social justice—and the central role these principles play in shaping the university's academic culture, which I have carried with me wherever I had the privilege to serve. My own research philosophy is grounded in integrity and truth: rigorous experimentation, transparent data practices, and a commitment to scientific accuracy. My teaching philosophy emphasizes fairness, accessibility, and the cultivation of an inclusive learning environment, reflecting my dedication to social justice. My experiences in interdisciplinary research have strengthened my resilience and discipline, allowing me to thrive in dynamic, collaborative environments—qualities essential to VSU's future-ready and values-driven community.

I am especially inspired by VSU's commitment to impactful community engagement and partnerships. My work experience in and in collaboration with land grant universities as well as at the USDA-ARS, which has been geared to benefit farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders who primarily support them, aligns strongly with VSU's priority of developing science that meaningfully improves lives. I am eager to collaborate across departments, contribute to VSU's growing international research presence, and support initiatives in sustainability and green scientific innovation.

I am confident that my research expertise, interdisciplinary background, and alignment with VSU's guiding principles make me a strong fit for the Associate Professor V position at the Department of Biotechnology. I welcome the opportunity to support VSU's goals of academic excellence, global leadership, and service to society, and to contribute to its mission of shaping ethical, skilled, and transformative graduates.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of discussing how my work and values can contribute to the continued growth and impact of the Department of Biotechnology and VSU as a whole.

Sincerely,



MARITES A. SALES, PhD