

PROFILE
HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR GABRIEL ABED
Digital Currency Pioneer



The Cave Hill Campus is pleased to nominate His Excellency Ambassador Gabriel Abed as an honorary graduand for 2022.

Mr. Gabriel Abed graduated from the University of Ontario, Canada, in 2010 with honours in Information Network Systems. Several months later, he established the Caribbean's first blockchain company, BitEdge, and a year later, in 2011, he set-up the largest cryptocurrency mining operation in the Caribbean. In 2014, Mr. Abed cofounded Bitt Inc., in Barbados. Bitt Inc.'s current clients include the Central Banks of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. In February 2016, Bitt broke new ground by launching a digitized version of the Barbados dollar, the first ever worldwide example of a digitized fiat currency being approved and embraced by a Central Bank.

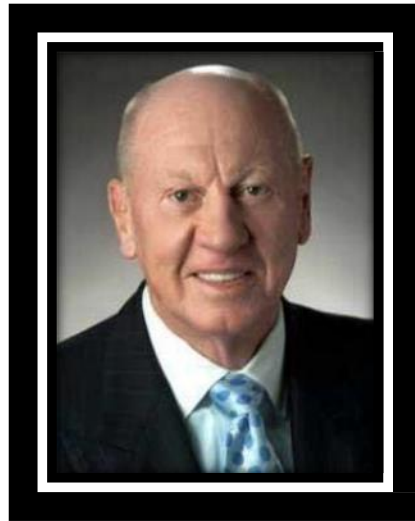
In 2016, during his tenure as CEO, Bitt raised \$16M USD from international investors. Currently, Bitt is known for its application of mMoney, which is endorsed by Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley and has seen widespread adoption across services in Barbados. Their clients include large merchants such as The Sol group, ICBL (Insurance Corporation of Barbados Limited) and 500+ other merchants comprising local restaurants and other businesses including The UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

For his achievements, Mr. Abed was awarded the Caribbean American Heritage (CARAH) Vanguard Award in 2016. In April 2018, he was appointed as the Special Technology Advisor to the Honourable David Burt, Premier of Bermuda to create a new industry for its future growth and economic prosperity. Mr. Abed is a founding member

of Caribbean 2030 and the Global Blockchain Business Council. In 2021, Mr. Abed was appointed Barbados' Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

With over twenty-six (26) presentations in the international community, twenty-two (22) articles and fifteen (15) interviews, Gabriel Abed is recognised as a leading authority on digital currencies and blockchain technology on the global stage. The first entrepreneur to establish a blockchain company in the Caribbean and a pioneer in the digital currency evolution, encouraging the use of Central Bank Digital Cash (CBDC).

PROFILE
E. NEVILLE ISDELL
Businessman and Philanthropist



The Cave Hill Campus is pleased to nominate Mr. E. Neville Isdell as an honorary graduand for 2022.

Edward Neville Isdell was born in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland and moved to Zambia with his parents when he was ten years old. After completing high school, he travelled to South Africa to attend the University of Cape Town where he received a degree in Social Science and gained practical experience in the area of social work while working with local communities. During his educational career at the University of Cape Town, Mr. Isdell, repulsed by the inequality he had encountered, ran for student council on an anti-apartheid platform and won. Mr. Isdell would carry this sense of civic responsibility with him when he transitioned from social work to a career in business when he started his first job at a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Kitwe, Zambia. This was the start of a more than four-decade long career at the company.

During his time at the world's largest beverage company, Mr Isdell served in varying capacities, in a number of countries including Zambia, Australia, the Philippines, Germany, England and the United States of America. After retiring from the Coca-Cola Company in 2002, he came out of retirement in 2004 to lead the company as its Chairman and CEO until 2009. During his tenure as Chairman and CEO, Mr. Neville ensured that there was a strong focus on corporate responsibility, employee

engagement and sustainability, resulting in the Coca-Cola Company returning to Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" list in 2006 and moving the company to #12 in global rankings. He has been credited as the man behind rejuvenating the Coca-Cola Company following its early-2000s slump.

With the resurgence of the Coca-Cola Company, Mr. Isdell saw opportunities to partner with NGOs including the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The partnership with the WWF would focus on the reduction of the company's environmental footprint and the protection of global freshwater resources. This move to partner with a non-profit, however, saw some initial resistance but Mr. Isdell saw it as an opportunity to make impactful change in the world while ensuring long-term viability for the company. The partnership between the Coca-Cola Company and the WWF was formed in 2007 and this vital partnership has helped to conserve critical freshwater ecosystems in over 50 countries on six continents.

Mr. Isdell has served on boards of NGOs including as Chairman of the World Wildlife Fund US, (WWF-US). He has also served on a number of other boards including the boards of General Motors and British Telecoms. Mr. Isdell is the recipient of the Clinton Global Citizen Award and four honorary degrees.

Mr. Isdell resides in Barbados where he has invested in the redevelopment of the Careenage in Bridgetown as part of a major tourism development project.

PROFILE
DR JOY ST. JOHN
Public Health Leader



The Cave Hill Campus is pleased to nominate Dr. Joy St. John as an honorary graduand for 2022.

Dr. Joy St. John is a UWI graduate who has achieved global leadership in public health in her appointment as Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization, (WHO) in 2017. Her true legacy, however is her regional leadership during the COVID19 pandemic as the Caribbean's most senior public health official, the Executive Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

As head of CARPHA, Dr. St. John led the regional health response to COVID-19 with an intergovernmental mandate from CARICOM and guided by recommendations from the COHSOD Health working group. CARPHA had the key coordinating role of addressing the needs of CARICOM member states by integrating a range of regional and international health and non-health agencies, including the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health England (PHE), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union

(EU), and the United Nations (UN), into a single coherent Regional Coordinating Mechanism for Health Security (RCM-HS). Despite the complexity of the distributed environment in the Caribbean, the effectiveness of the RCM-HS devised under Dr. St. John's leadership is ultimately measured in mortality outcomes adjusted for population size, that reveal death rates in CARICOM countries at one-fifth (or better) than those recorded in neighboring regions of the USA and South America.

A Barbadian, Dr. St. John is a true product of our regional university, having obtained a B.Sc. in Biology from the Cave Hill Campus, an MBBS from the Mona Campus, and an M.Sc. in Public Health, also from Mona. She was valedictorian of her cohort in the Caribbean Health Leadership Institute, also administered by The UWI.

Dr. St. John served as Chief Medical Officer of Barbados from 2005 – 2017 under three different administrations, a period that saw the implementation of world-class standards for HIV diagnostics and care, as well as effective epidemic responses against Influenza AH1N1 in 2009, chikungunya in 2013 and Zika in 2016. Dr. St. John served on a succession of WHO panels from 2011 onwards, including as Chair of the WHO Drafting Group that set global targets for reducing avoidable deaths due to NCDs. In 2017 she was appointed Assistant Director-General of the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland with responsibility for Climate and other Determinants of Health.

She returned to the Caribbean in 2019 as the senior regional public health officer, the Executive Director of CARPHA, providing leadership in public health for 26 Caribbean member states. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. St. John provided overall leadership of CARPHA's support to Ministries with technical guidance, policy advice, support of regulations for vaccines and medicines, funding for COVAX vaccines, procurement of supplies and equipment, tourism sector training for safe return to tourism and training of various security forces. At key moments in the pandemic, Dr. St. John invited The UWI to present evidence within her overall submission to the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference, thereby instilling science and evidence based decision making into the regional COVID-19 response. Her calm and assured leadership during the pandemic, that can be witnessed in a BBC interview

(<https://uwitv.org/intv/bbc-world-news-report-on-the-caribbeans-covid19-response>), has undoubtedly saved lives within the Caribbean and helped raise the reputation of the Caribbean outside the region as a safe destination underpinned with sound public health measures.