

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS**

**CURRICULUM RENEWAL FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GLOBAL
COMPETITIVENESS**

(MONDAY, JUNE 04, 2018)

UWI Colleagues, members of the media, Good morning and welcome, thank you for being here. We have called this press conference to inform you of very relevant new offerings and strategic development initiatives at the UWI Cave Hill Campus with effect from the new academic year. For the past three years, the Cave Hill Campus has been actively involved in visioning and strategic planning in the context of its own circumstances and as a key pillar of an excellent global university rooted in the Caribbean, The University of the West Indies. As the Campus maps its recovery we have prioritized internationalization and the Smart Campus Initiative as the key vehicles to deliver the triple ‘A’ goals of the UWI’s Strategic plan and advance our contribution to revitalizing the development of Barbados and the region.

Curriculum renewal is one of the areas of our educational mission that receives our fullest attention. The Cave Hill Campus undertakes rigorous assessments of our students, through quality controlled examinations, our faculty, through pedagogical renewal and peer reviewed assessments, our academic programmes through routine, cyclical, externally led, quality assurance reviews, and our facility and resources through institutional accreditation reviews led by the Barbados Accreditation Council. I want Barbados and the region to know that every aspect of the Campus’ operations and programmes is subjected to quality control and review, and we are very proud that every degree and certificate comes from an educational institution with internationally recognized institutional accreditation. Our degrees have

educational currency, recognition and transferability. That is what accreditation represents. The medical graduates from the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus are the only doctors in Barbados graduating from an institution that is accredited, not once but twice! Our medical degrees are accredited by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions, CAAM-HP and the Department of Education of the United States Government through the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation, NCFMEA. So there is a rigorous process of review, analysis, mapping, and implementation. This is to ensure that our programmes will produce the type of graduate this region requires and whose knowledge and skills are globally competitive. At Cave Hill we are working to equip our students for a rapidly changing labour market in which artificial intelligence and rapidly changing demographics are altering work force requirements.

Ladies and gentlemen, this morning, we unveil another suite of relevant and innovative academic offerings which we expect to not only excite prospective students but provide our various strategic partners with the assurance that The UWI is providing a level of tertiary education to advance all dimensions of the human resource needs of Barbados and the region.

The Campus aims to satisfy the changing labour market needs of public and private sector agencies and businesses, non-governmental organisations, and individuals in search of new knowledge. We are guided by The UWI's Mission *to advance learning, create knowledge and foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world.* In the continuing delivery of this mission, the Campus has introduced several curriculum adjustments in a range of disciplines necessary for work and life in the 21st Century.

New programmes are being introduced across many faculties, including new collaborations geared towards strengthening interdisciplinary studies. In the **Faculty of Medical Sciences** new programmes include: an **MSc Nursing Education and an MSc Nursing Administration**. These are specifically tailored to improve the shortfalls existing in these areas in Barbados, the Caribbean and beyond. Our research has shown a dire need for such training and a looming shortage of critical nursing skills across the globe. Caribbean and world populations are living longer, therefore there is an increasing need for professionals in health care. We expect Barbados to grow as a destination for health tourism. Professional careers in nursing will continue to be in great demand regionally and internationally. Of course, within the Faculty of Medical Sciences, our flagship medical programme will soon be taking on a much more international thrust, with our commitment to enrol the first cohort of students from Ghana.

Artificial intelligence is daily rapidly changing Caribbean workplaces and the Cave Hill Campus has no choice but to be leaders in providing the skills and expertise in this area. Besides the ongoing Bsc in Software Engineering in which our first cohort of students will go to China for two years, In the **Faculty of Science and Technology** we are offering a new **MSc in Information Technology (with specialisations in Mobile Applications, Web Development or Enterprise Systems)** and a new **Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology**. **These are only part of the academic aspects of** our mission to reposition Cave Hill as a Smart Campus for the 21st century.

Also in the **Faculty of Science and Technology** we will offer a **Bsc degree in Environmental Science**. This provides opportunities for students to develop

knowledge and skills that are in accordance with regional needs related to ocean health, climate change, natural hazards, and sustainable development. This major is designed for Science students who are interested in applying these skills and knowledge to the preservation of the environment. Graduates of this programme will be able to apply sound scientific knowledge and critical evaluation skills to identify and address environmental issues affecting the region.

The Faculty of Humanities and Education will offer a **Minor in Creative Writing**. This aims to support not only the growing national investment in the creative industries, but a regional network of literary festivals and literary prizes, including the OCM Bocas Prize for Literature. With locally based journals such as *Poui: Cave Hill Journal of Creative Writing* and *Bim* that have an international reach and highly respected reputation, we already have avenues through which writers talk to each other about Caribbean writing. The Minor is open to all students and to members of the public who may want to take all or some courses for credit or for personal development.

the Minor will also serve as a feeder route to the new MFA, Creative Writing. It aims to attract local and international established writers without certification and prospective writers already holding a first degree (in any field). This postgraduate programme will develop skills in creative expression, both for self-enrichment and continued learning but also as a potential first step towards publication, as the MFA degree is awarded on completion of a manuscript of poetry or fiction.

The Campus is pleased to announce the FHE will offer a **Minor in Chinese (Mandarin)**. This is the first programme-level collaboration between the Confucius

Institute and an academic Department at Cave Hill (Language, Linguistics and Literature). Students enrolled in this programme will develop the rudiments of functional Mandarin as well as learning about traditional and contemporary Chinese culture, history, society and economy. This Minor, positions participants to pursue the internationally recognized HSK proficiency certificate in Chinese language, already offered by the Confucius Institute, and further qualifies them for postgraduate, undergraduate and short term scholarship opportunities to experience language immersion and further training in Chinese language and literature, or Chinese history, philosophy and traditional medicine. Students successfully completing the Minor will have their credits counted towards the BA in Chinese and Asian Studies which is in development.

We are very pleased that the **School of Education** is offering the new **Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Care and Education**. This programme will prepare participants\students for a variety of careers working with and advocating for children during the first (8) eight years of life. Candidates will be equipped with knowledge and hands-on skills to facilitate young children's development, growth and readiness for formal education and lifelong learning. They will learn culturally appropriate strategies towards producing ideal CARICOM and world citizens. The programme places emphasis on communicating and working collaboratively with all stakeholders, especially parents, in promoting early stimulation, enabling quality growth, development and learning.

New Institutional Developments:

1) Faculty of Caribbean Creative Arts and Culture

The Campus is very pleased to announce it is actively pursuing the introduction of a new faculty – The Faculty of Caribbean Creative Arts and Culture. One of the region’s exceptional contributions to creativity and knowledge is our **distinctive Caribbean culture**, in music, in dance, in film, carnivals and festivals, religious belief systems and practices, the fine arts, we live our culture. We must now treat it with full respect and create a faculty structure that recognizes the region’s maturity, intellectual marketability and scholarly weight in cultural studies. We must establish a Faculty to enable Barbadian and Caribbean people to study and gain valuable skills and hone their talents in the visual and performance arts and the cultural industries. We already have the scholars and artists\ experts and practitioners, but most of all we have rich and varied intellectual and experiential fields of study that mark Caribbean Culture and Creative arts as unique in the world. And Barbados is no exception with contributions from world-renowned cultural scholars, performers and icons such as Karl Broodhagen, George Lamming, Kamau Brathwaite, Richild Springer, Nicolas Brancker, Anthony “Gabby” Carter, Rihanna, and so many others. When this faculty is established, prospective students from across the region and internationally will come to the Cave Hill Campus\Barbados for skills and knowledge in an area distinctively Caribbean. Reforming the UWI’s curriculum in cultural studies is aimed at providing our students an opportunity to participate more effectively in the burgeoning cultural industry of the Caribbean and the wider world.

Centre for Bio-Security Studies

The 2017 hurricane devastation in the Caribbean created myriad economic, social and health challenges. These stemmed from: geographical degradation, including coastal erosion; bacterial threats, and temperature-related health concerns. These

devastations exacerbated conditions of poverty due to the massive dislocations and loss of resources and livelihoods. These adversities signalled both geo-political and bio-security concerns and **the Cave Hill Campus has responded with the creation of an interdisciplinary Centre for Bio-Security Studies located in the Faculty of Social Sciences.** The Centre integrates the fields of law, medical research, international relations, and public health, and is dedicated to building capacity to deal with threats arising from biosecurity issues. Its first activity will be a **One Day Symposium** on August 2nd, that focuses on building resilience to Biosecurity threats. Confirmed keynote speakers are Dr Carissa Etienne, Director of PAHO and Dr Akin Abayomi, Nigerian expert on Ebola and other bio-security threats and Professor Rebecca Katz, Co-Director of the Center for Center for Global Health Science and Security, Georgetown University.

Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning

One of the **areas highlighted by the Barbados Human Resource Development Strategy 2011-2016**, was the need for lifelong and life-wide learning. It stated “learning at any age or stage has the potential to maximize the talents and skills of individuals, contributes to higher productivity, and enhances the opportunity to achieve personal aspirations and societal goals”.

The Cave Hill Campus has responded to this changing environment and the ongoing transformation of labour markets by introducing programmes that prioritize lifelong learning. We have established the **Centre for Professional Development and Lifelong Learning.** It will offer short new courses and workshops, as well as certificate programmes and postgraduate modules from all of our faculties.

Our aim is to provide all employment sectors with work-ready graduates whose competence, technical and soft skills enhance their competitive advantage. We will enhance collaborations with financial and legal institutions, manufacturing and insurance companies, the hotel industries and others, to provide our students with the opportunity to blend academic rigour with practical, real-time application. We are confident that our corporate stakeholders and other beneficiaries will appreciate the required benefits.

As a university we are aware we operate in a competitive environment but we are not daunted by the competition because we know we have superior goods and services. The UWI Cave Hill degree continues to embody immense value and earning potential. We have analysed our challenges especially that of limited funding. We have become increasingly more innovative and entrepreneurial. We have capitalized on our strengths and created strategies and programmes to position the Campus deep into the 21st century while serving as a catalyst for the revitalization of growth and development in Barbados and the Region. We are dedicated to expanded access, transforming the skilled labour force and growing applied research and innovation to advance Caribbean societies. The Cave Hill Campus represents a concentration of intellectual capital which will continue to serve Caribbean economic, social, political and cultural well-being.

Ladies and gentlemen of the media, my colleagues and I will now field any questions which you may have regarding our programmatic adjustments.

Professor V. Eudine Barriteau

June 04, 2018