

Welcome Remarks
Reception in Honour of Scholarly Excellence
October 19th, 2017

I am delighted to greet you this evening at now our annual event to celebrate your outstanding academic achievements.

The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus has a long tradition of celebrating excellence whether it is that of our faculty, administrative and support staff or our students. At the campus level, for our lecturers, administrative or support staff who all have delivered excellent service, they receive the Principal's Award for Excellence. At the University wide level, when that service and achievement is exceptional they receive the university-wide Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

For our student achievers, every year at the Cave Hill Campus we celebrate our student athletes who have made us proud. We want to salute Ms Simone Delzin, student of the Faculty of Science and Technology who is this year's recipient of the 2017, Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes scholarship. Tonight

it's your turn to be celebrated. Tonight the focus is on you, our student academic achievers.

The Campus is very proud of the fact that this year we are graduating 1538 women and men who are immediately adding to the stock of human resource capital in Barbados the region and internationally. The Campus is beginning to explore how we can create synergies among existing programmes to create new specialisations. We have introduced new degree specialisations such as the BSc in Software engineering, a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics with communications, and a diploma and Msc in Gender and Development Studies, and there are other programmes in development. For example we are working to add a minor in music in our suite of programmes in the creative arts at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination. We have every intention of being a fully smart campus catering to Caribbean 21st century realities. We take very seriously our mission to advance learning, create knowledge, foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world.

We are even more gratified that those of you who have gathered here excelled in your various degree programmes whether it was at the Bachelors, Masters or PhD levels. Some of you may have crossed the academic stage to receive

scholarships in our annual student award gala. Every year, on the first Tuesday in April, we award scholarships and bursaries to our students showing the greatest potential for academic achievement. We also simultaneously thank the donor community made up of the corporate sector, NGOs and private individuals.

Tonight I want to especially thank and ask you to join me in thanking those whose generous sponsorship facilitated us in honouring you. They are the Campus Cafeteria and the Mount Restaurant, Caribbean Cuizine represented by Mrs Stacia, Graham-McGeary. You know where to go to eat nutritiously on the Campus. Crystal's Enterprises, better known as Campus Mart, who is contributing for the second year in a row, represented this evening by Mr Rodney Drakes, Founder and Director; Campus Mart ensures your total comfort needs are met on the Campus. Fortress Fund Managers, represented by Mr Peter Arender Chief Investment Officer. And to all of you who are joining the job market, now is an excellent time to think of investing in mutual funds. Fortress would be only happy to explain that to you. Finally Warrens Eye Centre, represented this evening by Dr Nigel Barker whose presence is saying not only we will help you to see better but as with all the sponsors, they care about celebrating your academic achievements.

Tonight, you have demonstrated quite clearly you have moved beyond potential and promise. Tonight you have delivered on that potential and so, we pause and celebrate the fact that you have obtained the pinnacle of academic excellence for students. The Campus is very proud to recognise your achievements with this ceremony. We do not expect you to rest on your laurels. Your journey has just begun. Wherever you go and whatever you do, we want you to view these academic achievements as marking your dedication to discipline and excellence. We would wish these academic achievements to also signal your commitment to what we hope will be a lifetime of service. You deserve to be recognised. You have done exceptionally well, Congratulations!