

HR UPDATE

Collaboration—a fundamental work ethic



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One of the key themes in this year's Back to School Opening ceremony at the end of August was **Collaboration**. This seems a very pertinent theme to consider as a new academic year starts in the Federation and also as we celebrate our 31st anniversary of Independence. It is a theme which should be embraced by the entire civil service. There is urgent need for greater collaboration between and among Ministries, Departments, Units and within offices. Too often in our workplaces the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. There is an inadequate culture of team work and cooperation in the public service which adversely affects productivity among government officers. In such a small island with limited human resources, the sharing of skills, knowledge, talents and competencies can go a long way towards improving outcomes and effectiveness. In a society where everyone knows each other, has gone to school together, worships together, and shares close ties of all sorts, it should not be hard to develop a culture of collaboration in the workplace on a day to day basis, despite our individual differences and points of view. Once the will to work more closely together is there, our jobs become more meaningful and more enjoyable. One of the quotes used at the Back to School Opening ceremony was that by the remarkable Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Let each of us make this our mantra in the workplace on the occasion of our 31st Independence anniversary.

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Back to School Opening Ceremony

Ms Ornette Herbert, acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Human Resources participated in a panel discussion held to mark the **Back to School** opening ceremony on Monday, August 26 at the Nevis Performing Arts Theatre. The panel discussion was centred on the topic: '**Advancing Holistic Education for All through Positive Expectations, Collaboration and Accountability**'.

Other members of the panel included Mrs Palsy Wilkin, Principal Education Officer, Ms Ornette Webbe, President of the Nevis Teachers Union, Ms Zahnela Claxton, Director, Department of Youth and Ms Sandra Maynard, Director, Department of Social Services. The discussion was chaired by Dr Neva Pemberton, Education Planner at the Department of Education.

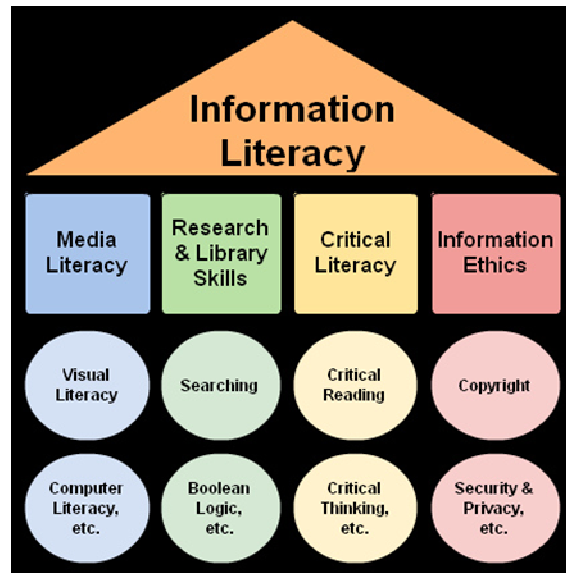
Back to School Opening cont'd

The discussion generated a fair number of responses from the audience with the majority of questions focused on issues related to terms and conditions of employment.

Information Skills Seminars

In the months of July and August 2014, Ms Isabel Byron, Training Officer in the Department of Human Resources conducted two seminars on the topic of “Information Literacy in the School Curriculum” for teachers and school librarians. The first presentation was made on July 3 during the Prospective Teachers Course. The second seminar was held for school librarians on 26 August, during **Back to School** week. Attendance was, however, poor at this session with only three school librarians attending along with School Library Coordinator, Ms Londa Browne.

The teaching of information skills or information literacy should be considered an essential component of school curricula in today's world. Information technologies have become an indispensable part of all aspects of life and have great potential for enhancing teaching and learning. However, neither students nor teachers in Nevis are adequately equipped with the skills needed to maximise use of these technologies in education. Students urgently require competencies in accessing, evaluating and using information in an efficient, effective and ethical manner and an awareness of E-safety issues. Teachers need training and guidance in exploiting the technologies to enhance their lessons and in steering their students through the maze of information which confronts them daily. Children need to be taught these skills from primary school. This should not simply be seen as the domain of the librarian or English teacher, as these skills are necessary in all subjects. It is possible to incorporate them into regular lessons in a way that does not involve a great deal of extra work but teachers need to be aware of the models and methodologies that exist for this. This is the aim of these initial seminars on information skills which it is hoped to follow up with more focused and detailed workshops in collaboration with the Department of Education and Library Services.



Human Resource Development

The Ministry of Human Resources wishes to congratulate all officers on study leave who have successfully completed courses of study at the tertiary education level in 2014 and returned home. The Ministry also wishes success to all officers commencing tertiary level studies locally or overseas this academic year.

Persons completing studies abroad for period ending August 2014

Name	Area of study	Institution
Mensah Adams	Land Economy & Valuation Surveying	UTECH, Jamaica
Jonishel Browne	Economics	UWI, Barbados
Shariska Browne	Agriculture	UWI, Trinidad & Tobago
Nadia Carty-Caines	Healthcare Administration	University of Lindenwood, USA
Melissa Flemming	Law	UWI, Jamaica
Hazel Francis	Public Relations	CUNY, USA
Delecia Julius	Psychology & Christian Education	UWI, Jamaica
Corey Maynard	Land Economy & Valuation Surveying	UTECH, Jamaica
Teshawn Maynard	Agriculture	UWI, Trinidad & Tobago
Megan Nisbett	Law	De Montfort University Leicester, UK
Jasmin Ward-Dore	English	Midwestern State University, USA

Teachers completing studies at CFBC, 2014

Yasira Bertie
Elbert Bergan Jr
Shonroy Caesar
Leshante Claxton
Chrislin Jeffers
Dowattie Lakhram
Kimoy Pemberton
Laikhwattie Tilakdharry
Leanissa Thomas
Samika Warner

Government employees commencing studies at CFBC September, 2014

Name	Area of Study
I-shana Broadbelt	Associate Degree in Education
Raquela Burke	Associate Degree in Education
Kalea Clarke	Associate Degree in Education
Rekiesia Huggins	Associate Degree in Education
Shakira Hull	Associate Degree in Education
Denee Warner	Associate Degree in Education
Latoya John	Associate Degree in Education
Lesia Browne	BSc in Nursing

Training and Certification Programme for Drug and Violence Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation (PROCCER)



Organization of American States



Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission

The Demand Reduction Unit of the Inter-American Drug Abuse and Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognizes the critical role that organizations involved in reducing demand for drugs play in the effort to lessen the impact of drugs on our individual countries, the wider region and hemisphere. The CICAD Training and Certification Model for Drug and Violence Prevention,

Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme (PROCCER) aims to enhance the competencies and skills of drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation professionals in the Caribbean Member States of the OAS. The programme's main objective is to improve drug prevention and treatment services in the Caribbean through training, technical assistance and the application of technology, and by establishing a certification process for drug abuse prevention and treatment personnel in coordination with regional and national authorities.

St. Kitts and Nevis has been involved in this project since 2011 through the **National Council on Drug Abuse Prevention** which falls under the Federal Ministry of Homeland Security. In February 2014 three Prevention Trainers and three Treatment Trainers from St. Kitts and Nevis were certified by CICAD at training in Miami. These six trainers will be conducting a six week training programme for thirty-five prevention and thirty-five treatment professionals in the Federation over the next six months. The project will be funded by CICAD with in kind contribution from the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Certification for the seventy participants will be from the University of the West Indies and support for the trainers will come from CICAD and St. Georges University in Grenada.

From Nevis seven front-line professionals have been nominated and qualify for the prevention track of the programme and eleven front-line professionals have been nominated and qualify for the treatment track.

The National Drug Council believes that prevention of substance use, abuse and dependence and its associated ills of crime and violence including domestic violence, child abuse and physical and mental disorders are of paramount interest in our society.

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

Andrew Carnegie

Developments in Library Services

Miss Anastasia Parris, Assistant Librarian, attended a workshop in St. Lucia from July 7-10. The workshop which dealt with the topics 'New Directions in Library Service' and 'Teaching Media and Information Literacy' was organized by the Department of Library and Information Studies, UWI, Mona.

Miss Merle Brookes headed the two-week restoration of the Hanley's Road Community Centre Library.

Announcement from the UWI Open Campus, Nevis

The UWI Open Campus will be offering several short term Professional Development courses at its local site. Persons are encouraged to register now for classes beginning in September 2014. Courses will take place only if there is a minimum of ten applicants and include:

- ◆ Supervisory Management - \$600.00 for 10 weeks
- ◆ Advanced Supervisory Management - \$810.00 for 12 weeks.
- ◆ Customer Service - \$400.00 for 6 weeks
- ◆ Events and Conference Management - \$810.00 for 12 weeks
- ◆ Fundamentals of Human Resource Management - \$810.00 for 12 weeks

Interested persons are also encouraged to apply online to do various Certificate, Diploma and Degree programmes. Guidelines are available on the website: www.open.uwi.edu.



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Administration Building
Bath Hotel
Phone: (869) 469-5521 Ext 2132/2015
Fax: (869) 469-1622
Email: hrdept@niagov.com

Nevis Island Administration
Ministry of Human Resources