

# UWI Open Campus in SVG to receive major upgrade

FACILITIES AT THE University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus in St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) will soon receive a major upgrade to include facilities that will better serve its increasing numbers of students.

Last Friday, UWI officials in the region and representatives from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Canadian government gathered in St Vincent and the Grenadines to launch their collaborative project for the Open Campus development.

Through this project, it is hoped that the Open Campus facilities in SVG and St Lucia will be modernized to better serve the increasing number of students enrolling at the institutions.

Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves delivered the feature address at Friday's event.

Giving a brief history of the Open Campus facility, the Prime Minister noted that a cotton ginnyery was once located on the site. However, it was destroyed in 1960 by a fire.

In a comparison to that small agro processing enterprise, Gonsalves noted that the UWI Open Campus has now become a factory that outputs education.

"This facility is going to be about 24,000 square feet of floor space. So that's significantly larger than what we have and at some appropriate time we

will get the details," he told persons present at the ceremony.

Gonsalves revealed that two Vincentian professionals, architect Trevor Thompson and engineer Glenford Stewart, have been earmarked to take on the project.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Richmond Hill area, where the Open Campus is located, is already booming with educational facilities, including three secondary schools, two primary schools, the curriculum development unit and the public library, which is also home to the Archives and Documentation centre.

"I have to say I would like to see something additional in the project than what we have at the moment. If the Canadian government is interested in partnering further...and I'm sure the CDB would not mind putting a pot of money from which we can borrow to put science laboratories for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, to supplement what we have at the Community College," Gonsalves suggested.

Michelle Cross-Fenty, director of projects at CDB, observed that access to higher education has enabled many persons in lower socio-economic conditions to gain the necessary knowledge and skills needed to elevate themselves out of poverty.

This, she said, is one of the reasons that the CDB

has chosen to be a part of this project.

Cross-Fenty indicated that the project is part of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan of the UWI. Also, she noted that the reconstruction of the Open Campus site will include the redevelopment of the student activity centre; learning and common rooms; a library; an administrative block, which will include multimedia training rooms to facilitate local and remote interactions; two computer labs; and a tele-video conferencing room. Facilities will also include a specialized office centre block to accommodate visiting academics, a day care centre and green space.

"These will be constructed with energy efficiency optimizing measures, including solar photovoltaic systems, which will yield economic as well as environmental benefits," she said.

"Demand for quality tertiary education is high and hence the central role for the Open Campus and the premier tertiary institution. Increasingly, not only are more secondary school graduates meeting the matriculation requirements for entry into tertiary education, but more professionals and workers in general are retooling to enhance their productivity levels and promotion prospects. This demand validates the investment being made through this project with enrollment increasing from 24 stu-



**FROM LEFT: SVG Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves, head of the local branch of the UWI Open Campus Deborah Dalrymple and director of projects at the Caribbean Development Bank Michelle Cross-Fenty at the launch of a collaborative project for UWI Open Campus development**

dents in 2008 to over 526 in 2014. This is a reflection of new programmes offered as a direct response to labour market needs and the demand for certification for career enhancement."

In brief remarks, principal and pro vice-chancellor of the UWI Open Campus Dr Luz Longworth stated that the open campuses across the region were developed to meet the needs of person seeking higher education in the countries that were underserved by the university.

According to Longworth, this project, which will see the redevelop-

ment of the Open Campus sites in St Vincent and the Grenadines and St Lucia, will result in modernized facilities that will provide the people with a locus for learning.

"Recognizing that higher education is rapidly changing, the UWI, through its Open Campus, has begun a transformative process that will mesh together our virtual and physical presence to bring UWI to you," she said.

"We know that Caribbean people, although we have online instruction, like to have a place where they can meet and that is what this site will do. It will be a meeting

place for Caribbean people. A meeting place for the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines to meet, to learn and to excel."

Canadian High Commissioner to Barbados and the OECS Richard Hanley also delivered brief remarks. He noted that through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Canada has contributed over CAD\$96 million through three projects for the development and administering of higher education for the Caribbean. (BK)

## Defining your 'Authentic Self'

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going beyond your comfort zone.

**Commit To Your Choices And Decisions**  
Committing to your choices and decisions reinforces the value and worth behind who you are. It validates the belief and trust you have for yourself, especially once doubt and uncertainty arise. It helps you to trust your initial choice and decision of becoming your true self and living as your true self, making it easier to move forward and adjust to your new normal.

**Learn To Trust Yourself**  
Trusting yourself is a necessity in becoming your true self and living as your true self. There will be moments when you are standing out in a crowd or when you are going

against the norm because of who you are or what you want. In those moments, trusting yourself will give you the willpower and the courage, along with anything else you might need, to continue pursuing what is in your heart.

**Try New Things**  
Trying new things will help you be able to know if something works for you or not, instead of just wondering or assuming. There are some things you might be uncertain about. You might even be uncertain about whether or not this will work for you, but if there is any desire or curiosity, encourage yourself to at least give it a try. Sometimes, if something is not working for you, trying something new might be what you need to redirect you to your path of happiness.

**Set Yourself Up For Success**  
Setting yourself up for success and approaching this transition and everything else you might come across in life with a successful outlook will set you up for exactly that. It will help you adapt an optimistic attitude and help you become a person who always finds a solution, instead of a person who makes excuses. Expecting success also allows you to follow your happiness, which is fully aligned with your true self. And when you are aligned with your true self, you naturally do what you need to, to live as your true self.

**"To thine own self be true."**  
William Shakespeare

● **Prepared by Dr Jozelle Miller Health Psychologist**



**A SECTION OF THE audience at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus in St Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) launch of a collaborative project for UWI Open Campus development**