

Foreword



Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie
Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal

I am truly delighted to extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us on this our ninth annual Research Day. This year's Research Day is very special because for the first time, since the inception of this event, the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus has chosen to focus fully on itself through an exploration of the topic **Higher Education: Pathway to Success**. Ventilation of this topic is very timely and essential given the important role higher education plays in the development of the region.

The topic acknowledges the expectation of the populace that higher education will prepare them to be successful citizens. To meet this expectation higher education has to be relevant to the needs of the region and the needs of the diverse and demanding pool of prospective students. However, those needs have to be balanced against the resource constraints and the changing environment within which higher education has to operate.

Higher education has been dramatically affected by structural, cultural and demographic changes in the global community and in the last ten years alone the Jamaican society within which the Mona Campus

operates has had its own socio-economic landscape radically altered. I refer to the transition to a liberal and open economy, the demonopolization of the telecommunications sector, the opening up of the media and education landscape, and local government reform to name a few.

In spite of these challenges the UWI, committed to maintaining its relevance and high quality products and services, has conducted its own self assessment to provide it with crucial feedback on these vital aspects of its operation. The good news is that the feedback has been very positive and the UWI is still the university of choice for most. Rather than resting on its laurels the UWI has chosen to seize every occasion, today being an important one, to showcase its work and to hear from you, its stakeholders, of ways to improve the higher education product and to ensure that it truly delivers to you a pathway to success.

Do have a productive, interactive and informative Research Day. •