

Principal's Overview

2011 - 2012

UWI



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ostering excellence in the teaching and learning space is without question a primary focus of any modern world-class university. It is the unrelenting drive to exceed expectation, to improve on past accomplishments, to continuously renew in an increasingly dynamic higher education environment that allows great universities to keep on providing the all-round quality academic experience that separates them from the ordinary. It enables them to build strong lasting positive reputations that in turn allow



them to attract the brightest and best students, first-rate faculty with the requisite skills-sets and the best administrative talents.

The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus is cognisant of this fact. It is this simple guiding reality that drives its relentless pursuit of the creation of the ideal teaching and learning space. The ultimate goal is the provision of an environment that is comfortable, student-friendly and conducive to learning; offers the most current and relevant curriculum; provides key modern teaching aids and learning tools and optimal mix of developmental programmes; and encourages peer-to-peer sharing and social interactions.

In continuing the pursuit of such excellence, The UWI, Mona Campus community can reflect with a sense of pride and satisfaction on the 2011/2012 academic year, for its many transformational accomplishments amidst unprecedented challenges. These challenges were by no means novel developments. The gravity, with which they were presented however, reflected the increasingly harsh realities of the environment within which we now operate as a university. That we prevailed

amidst such difficult times therefore made the year's accomplishments particularly noteworthy.

I am delighted to share with you details of these initiatives, some of which were newly commenced, others advanced during the last academic year. Individually, the initiatives sought to achieve outcomes which foster an overall positive teaching and learning experience in support of the UWI's continuing quest for institutional excellence. Collectively, they were designed to help us secure the very survival and long-term sustainability of our University, in a continuously changing and increasingly challenging higher education environment.

As you leaf through the pages of this report, you will learn about initiatives aimed at safeguarding the standard, currency and relevance of the academic programmes offered here at Mona; developments in research, outcomes from which are impacting lives across the Region; changes to the campus' operational processes designed to improve efficiency and the quality of service to stakeholders; our programme of community engagement; and very importantly the outstanding achievements of staff and students on the local and international stages.

You will also learn about the UWI, Mona Campus' programme of infrastructure development which seeks to renew and expand the physical plant, thereby enabling us to provide a modern teaching and learning space; access opportunities in new and expanding education markets; contain costs; and improve revenue streams.

For example, the Mona energy project seeks to guarantee supply of the campus' energy needs and reduce energy cost in this increasingly turbulent energy market. On the other hand, the Mona e-Services Park will provide invaluable job training and experience in various fields, to our students, allowing them the opportunity to fund their university

education, while providing the Mona Campus with a secure revenue stream.

Probably the most important developments during the 2011/2012 academic year however, were the granting of institutional accreditation to the UWI, Mona Campus by the University Council of Jamaica, and the granting of full accreditation to The UWI's medical programmes by the Caribbean Accreditation Authority in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP).

Such developments reflect the Mona Campus' intense commitment to high academic standards and reward its ongoing efforts to develop a first-rate academy. It also strengthens my conviction that The University of the West Indies has some of the brightest minds serving in our academic and administrative spheres anywhere, bar none. The reality is that none of our accomplishments over the last academic year would have been possible without the dedicated support of this team of faculty, administrators, technical and support staff. To you I extend my heartfelt thanks.

Gordon Shirley
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal