



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Biennial Conference of The UWI Schools of Education

April 23-25, 2013 at the St. Augustine Campus

Advancing education through a culture of inquiry, innovation, and indigenization

Call for Abstracts

The Schools of Education at the three physical campuses of The University of the West Indies take turns in hosting an academic conference biennially. Each conference focuses on a topic or issue that is educationally significant to the Caribbean. In 2013, the conference will be hosted by the St. Augustine campus. The organizing committee invites you to participate in this event that will centre discussion on the theme *Advancing education through a culture of inquiry, innovation, and indigenization*.

Theme

Advances in education within recent times have almost become synonymous with the acquisition and use of the latest technological gadget, deployment of Internet capability to schools, and training of educators to become digitally literate. These developments necessitate the reskilling of educators to help make educational institutions more efficient and relevant to learners in the digital age. However, these improvements run the risk of merely effecting superficial change in educational practice if they are not situated within the context of a wider culture that promotes and values inquiry into educational goals, processes, and outcomes. Such a culture can actively facilitate and stimulate innovation so that it becomes intrinsic to work in education.

A culture of inquiry and innovation must also recognize the indigenous context. The assumption that knowledge is universal, objective, and value free should be questioned. A new culture needs to be adopted that recognizes the types of problems faced by the indigenous learner. A first step in developing this culture is celebrating indigenous [sources of] knowledge, that is,

using local funds of knowledge as the impetus for curricular inquiry, culturally relevant pedagogy, and research.

We invite you to consider presenting to the 2013 conference empirical work and/or position papers/concept papers from varied research traditions, which can contribute to developing a new culture of inquiry and innovation by considering questions such as these:

1. What are teachers' conceptions/perceptions of indigeneous knowledge?
2. How do teachers tap into learners' indigenous knowledge?
3. What are the barriers to establishing a culture of inquiry, innovation and indigenization?

Presentation strands

The organizing committee welcomes research presentations based in any of the following strands.

- Assessment that is appropriate and relevant
- Teacher education: A catalyst/mechanism for advancing education
- The scholarship of teaching and learning
- Indigenizing research methodology: Benefits and challenges
- Possibilities and practices of inclusive education
- Creating new spaces for learning
- Educating the digital native: Integrating ICT in teaching and learning
- Leading and managing educational change
- Educational evaluation as inquiry
- Critical literacy pedagogy
- Indigenous knowledge and culturally relevant teaching
- Advancing teaching and learning: Open Educational Resources (OERs)
- Realizing possibilities in education through a collaboration of knowledge
- Innovative education through indigenization
- Community participation and empowerment
- Other [research papers that address educationally significant issues in the Caribbean and that are not captured/represented in any strand listed above]

Proposals that do not directly address the conference theme, but which are relevant to education in and for the Caribbean will be considered.

Presentation formats

The following presentation formats will be available in 2013:

Individual papers: A paper session includes research reports and theoretical papers. Up to three papers will comprise a session. Presenters will have no more than 20 minutes to deliver their papers. Following presentations, 15 minutes will be reserved for open discussion. Presenters **MUST** provide the audience with 1-2 page summaries that include presenter's name and institutional affiliation, topic of the research, research questions, key findings, conclusions, and main references cited.

Round tables: Round-table presentations are intended for use by M.Phil. and Ph.D. students who are at a very advanced stage of preparation of their theses/dissertations, and by researchers who wish to discuss working papers in a small-group setting. One presenter will be scheduled per table, with a prospective audience of 5-6 persons. Round tables permit close and informal interactions among presenters and their audience. Presentation time is 20 minutes, followed by 20 minutes of discussion, for a total time of 40 minutes.

Symposium: A symposium focuses on one **significant** issue or theme in education. It consists of a session chair, 3-4 presenters, and a discussant speaking to a unified theme. 90 minutes will be allocated, of which 20 minutes must be reserved for interaction with the audience. Symposium proposers are responsible for providing their own session chair and discussant. **Symposium themes must be tied directly to the conference theme.**

Posters: Research posters of size 36"x 24" may be presented. Typically, posters provide graphical summaries of research processes and products, and are accompanied by narration and explanation from a presenter. Individual researchers/single authors are limited to presenting **ONE** poster; groups/multiple authors may present up to **THREE** posters. Persons may present posters both as individual and group authors.

Guidelines for submission and deadlines

Persons wishing to present individual papers, posters, and round tables at the conference must submit a **200 word abstract** of their paper/poster clearly identifying (a) the presentation strand in which they wish to be located, (b) the purpose of the research, (c) research questions or hypotheses explored/investigated, and (c) findings, if available.

Abstracts must also include a helpful title, 2-3 keywords, and the author's name, email address, and institutional affiliation. [This is not part of the word count.]

Proposals for presenting a symposium must (a) identify the common theme of the papers to be presented, and the presentation strand in which it is located; (b) establish the purpose of the

presentations; (c) justify/establish the significance of the symposium to the educational community; (d) explain how it is linked to the conference theme; and (e) list the tentative titles of papers and names of authors. Email addresses and institutional affiliations of symposium participants must be included. Two-three keywords should also be listed. Word limit: 500 words.

Submit abstracts and proposals as WORD, pdf, or Open Office document **attachments**, to Biennial.Conf@sta.uwi.edu

Please label attachments as follows: biennial conference_presenter's name

Submission deadline: December 17, 2012, 12 midnight (AST or local time).

Notification

You will receive an email confirmation when you submit your abstract/proposal. If this does not happen within 24 hours, please send an email to krishna.seunarinesingh@sta.uwi.edu with "No confirmation of submission: your name" in the subject line.

Decisions relating to acceptance/rejection of abstracts and proposals will be communicated via email to the person who submitted them. This information will be available from January 18th, 2013.

Audiovisual equipment

The following equipment will be available in presentation rooms at no cost: multimedia projector and screen, computer, document presenter.

For further details on the conference, you may visit the conference website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/13/education/>

Registration cost

Presenters: Early registration: \$US200 for 3 days [registration deadline: March 20, 2013]

UWI student presenters: \$TT200 per day or \$500 for 3 days

Public: \$TT200 per day or \$500 for 3 days

Late registration: \$US250 [registration from March 21, 2013]

This rate entitles the registrant to all conference materials and refreshments.