# UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
## St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

## *TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION: Rights, Roles, Recognition of Persons with Disabilities*

23rd & 24th April 2015

## UWI Network and Outreach
## for Disability Education and Sensitization (NODES)

## &

## The Disability Studies Unit
## The University of the West Indies

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

There are many disabled citizens within society for whom the issues of care, health and support are paramount. Conversely, there are many who have physical or intellectual impairments, or conditions that limit social interaction, or who have been diagnosed with mental disorders and who do not see themselves as "suffering" from a disability. Society and social structures nonetheless erect impediments to full participation and the capacity to live happy and meaningful lives. Arguably it is this lack of sensitivity to the needs and rights of all citizens

that causes "disability." This conference seeks to open a debate on how those with different abilities and needs are perceived, educated, and provided with the necessary structures to enable all to live as full-fledged members of Caribbean society.

Caribbean society has erected extraordinary barriers to seeing those who are different. It is no coincidence that unique amongst world literatures, there are only two Caribbean literary works that in any way privilege or foreground persons with intellectual or learning disabilities. This suggests a peculiar lack of awareness amongst the most elite of Caribbean peoples about the nature of disability and the status of those with functional limitations.

This conference seeks to create visibility and a forum for discussion. It invites papers from academics and interested persons working in the field such as researchers, health professionals, educators, literary, linguistic and cultural scholars, social scientists, lawyers, care givers and persons with disabilities under the terms of the World Health Organization which defines disability as:

> not something that a person has but, instead, something that occurs outside of the person—the person has a functional limitation. Disability occurs in the interaction between a person, his or her functional ability, and the environment. A person's environment can be the physical environment, communication environment, information environment, and social and policy environment.

The conference seeks to enhance research, to give visibility, to sensitize the general public, to draw attention to the rights of those with functional limitations,

The conference invites papers that include, but are not limited to topics such as:
Policy formation and implementation
Legal framework
Employment and access

Representation and self fashioning

Mental disorders / invisible disabilities

Assistive technologies

Human rights

Inclusive education

Disability trauma and abuse

Women and disability

Children and disability

Ageing and disability

**The conference organizers invite applications from persons with disabilities for a limited number of grants to attend this conference.**

**VENUE:** UWI LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

**FEATURE SPEAKERS INCLUDE:** Dr Elizabeth Harry,
Professor and Chair, Department of Teaching and
Learning University of Miami, USA

Dr Gerald Hutchinson
Professor of Psychiatry
Faculty of Medical Sciences
UWI St Augustine Trinidad and Tobago

Ms Eileen Dunne
Self-advocate with Down Syndrome &
Member of the National Advisory Council for Down
Syndrome Ireland

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Conference will feature a range of unique scholarly, and practical presentations (workshops and demonstrations) on any of the topics described in the conference announcement. It will welcome proposals from scholars and practitioners who are involved or interested in research, discussions or activities that reflect these topics.

Presentations may be in any of the several formats listed below.

- **Formal presentation using any medium** – limited to 20 minutes
- **Poster session** - presentation/display space limited to 1.5m x 1.5m
- **Panel discussion** - two or three papers encompassing a range of perspectives on an issue
- **Round Table** - informal presentation settings limited to 20 minutes
- **Exhibition** – art, craft, film, audio recording, etc.
- **Workshop -** practical, interactive sessions limited to 2 hours

**What to submit**

The proposal should identify the issue and/or topic and presentation type and should include information on resources/facilities that would be required.

Submit an abstract of no more than 250 words and profile of no more than 150 words. Where there are co-presenters, submit a vita for each presenter.

**Schedule – FINAL Deadlines**

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| January 20, 2015 | Deadline for submission of abstracts/proposals |
| January 30, 2015 | Notification of acceptance |
| March 20, 2015 | Submission of full papers |

**Send submissions to:**

**Dr. Jean Antoine-Dunne, Chairperson NODES**
 Jean.Antoine@sta.uwi.edu;
**Dr. Innette Cambridge, Head Disabilities Studies Unit**
 Innette.Cambridge@sta.uwi.edu

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine

Trinidad and Tobago