



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Clement Sankat, *BSc (UWI), MSc (UWI), PhD (Guelph), FIAgrE, CEng, FAPETT*

Principal's Forum for Secondary Schools

Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine

Tuesday 28th September 2010 9.00 am

Opening Remarks

Salutations

- Thank you Chair
- Minister of Education, Dr. the Honourable Tim Goopeesingh
- Director of the Instructional Development Unit of The UWI St. Augustine Campus, Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry
- Colleagues of The UWI St. Augustine Campus
- Distinguished Presenters, Teachers and Students
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

- A very pleasant good morning!
- It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies for our Annual Forum for Secondary Schools. I must say that I am delighted to see so many students and teachers – some from as far as Penal. Welcome and thank you for coming! Allow me also to give a special welcome to the parents who have joined us this morning. Being a parent myself, I know the daily challenge with balancing work and parenting responsibilities. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to support your sons, daughters – this is extremely important to their personal and educational development.
- Before I continue, allow me also to give a very special welcome to our Minister of Education, Dr. Tim Goopeesingh. Honourable Minister, I thank you for your presence here today and more broadly, for the support of your Ministry for this and other initiatives of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies. I look forward to further strengthening our collaboration as we work together to enhance education in Trinidad and Tobago at all levels.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, Students: this is the third annual Forum that the UWI St. Augustine Campus is hosting for sixth form students and teachers with a particular focus on teaching and learning. It is testament to the steadfast commitment of our Campus to the effective preparation and holistic development of our secondary school students so that they can be successful leaders of tomorrow.
- As I have said on several occasions, The University of the West Indies is about producing leaders. We pride ourselves on the distinctive graduates we produce each year who go out and make outstanding contributions in Trinidad and Tobago, the wider Caribbean and internationally. We do this by maintaining a clear focus on our strategic goals, our core values and our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. In so doing, our academics and our administrators work very hard to preserve that unique UWI brand that makes us the preeminent tertiary education institution in the English-speaking Caribbean. As young students who are preparing for university life very soon, this is something I want you to understand and appreciate about our institution and about the St. Augustine Campus, in particular.
- Teaching and learning is an integral part of our work as a Campus and university and the Instructional Development Unit has been one of the main

drivers of continuous improvement in teaching and learning, since its establishment in 1996. At this point, I would like to commend the Director of the Instructional Development Unit, Dr. Anna-May Edwards-Henry and her team for organizing this workshop and for the commitment of the IDU to maintaining excellence in teaching standards and for promoting the scholarship of teaching and learning.

- Today's Forum will give you the opportunity to interact with some of our UWI Lecturers, to ask questions and receive immediate feedback. Through this Forum you will also learn about UWI degree programmes and discover career paths that you may not have considered before. Given the wide range of programmes we offer, I am confident that you will find a niche that matches your academic and research interests.
- I am told that in today's Forum, you will also have the opportunity to participate in a learning style workshop, which will allow you to better prepare for university life and to take charge of your own learning outcomes when you become a UWI student. Yes, being a UWI student comes with a great deal of personal responsibility. We at the St. Augustine Campus consider this to be an important step in the process of preparing you to be distinctive UWI graduates

who have strong academic foundations but who are also innovative, entrepreneurial, critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

- Additionally, we will showcase some of the other talents that can be developed at the UWI with a musical presentation from one of our third year students in the Musical Arts Programme in the Department of Creative and Festival Arts, Mr. Khion De Las. I understand that the piece of music he will perform was created by a sixth form student named Atiba Williams, which reaffirms the view that many secondary school students are exceptionally talented and are already distinguishing themselves as young leaders.
- As I close, let me say that the UWI St. Augustine Campus is committed to our young students and to the enhancement of education in Trinidad and Tobago. Today's Forum will continue to provide support for our secondary schools - our feeder institutions - by offering relevant information to students and better preparing all of you for become UWI students and graduates. Just two weeks ago, we admitted over 4,000 new undergraduate students and our Prime Minister, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar delivered a wonderful feature address – the first time in the history of our Campus' Matriculation Ceremonies!

- As The UWI St. Augustine Campus celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, let me emphasize that you young students represent the future of our Campus, our country and region. The University is here to help you fulfill your dreams but also to prepare you to shape the development of our country and region – through scholarship, research and service. I look forward to welcoming you at our Matriculation ceremony for incoming UWI students in the near future, but more importantly, to seeing you join the ranks of our distinctive UWI graduates who have excelled in a range of disciplines across the globe!
- I thank you.