

The Contribution of the Petroleum Studies Programmes at the UWI to the Oil and Gas Industry of Trinidad and Tobago

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ABSTRACT

A Petroleum Engineering Unit was established at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine in 1976 in the Department of Chemical Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering at the Government and Industry's request. Over the four decades, the strength of the Unit and interest in its programmes has varied as the oil price has fluctuated evolving into now an upstream Petroleum Studies Unit consisting of an accredited MSc programme in Petroleum Engineering (1981) and an undergraduate accredited programme in Petroleum Geoscience (2001). Some 429 students have graduated from the various Petroleum Studies programmes. The impact on the Caribbean, and Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) in particular, has been significant, for example the percentage of local Petroleum Engineers in the industry has increased from approximately 10% in the early 1970's to 85% in 2011. This paper outlines the Petroleum Industry in T&T, the history of the Petroleum Studies Unit at the UWI and concludes with how it has contributed to the industry.

Keywords: Petroleum Studies, Petroleum Engineering, Petroleum Geoscience, UWI