The GoodStart Mentorship Programme: Impact on the UWI student experience

Presenter: Rómulo Guédez

Friday 13 April 2012
12 noon – 1:00 p.m.
FHE South Block Room 1

All are invited.

This presentation attempts to analyse interviews conducted with 11 mentors who shared their insights from their participation in the GoodStart Mentorship Programme. The presentation will be followed by questions and discussion.

The GoodStart Mentorship Programme, initiated in 2004, is based at a primary school near The UWI, St Augustine Campus and provides university students with the opportunity to mentor (tutor) underprivileged primary school children by volunteering their time and abilities. The university student acts as a role model to these children so that they (the mentees) are encouraged and motivated to improve their academic performance and human development. As a result of the big-brother relationship created between mentor and mentee, both parties will develop a greater awareness of their social and personal responsibility. The short term goal is that these children pursue higher education, and become model citizens themselves. The long term goal is that the mentees later become the ones to improve the standard of living of their communities by holistically developing their human potential. The mentees can make a valuable contribution to their communities through the educational and human support that they had received from their mentors. In the past, the experiences gained from other mentoring programmes involving university students as mentors have indicated that these kinds of social programmes can have a tremendous influence on them (the mentors) and the mentees as well. The GoodStart Mentorship Programme is aimed at both male university students and primary school boys in the hope that it can contribute in lowering the rate of male academic underachievement.