



# 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), FIAGR, CEng, FAPETT*

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### Address by Campus Principal

### UWI Research Expo – Media Launch

Office of the Campus Principal, UWI St. Augustine

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 10.00 am

**NOTE TO ALL READERS: PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### Salutations

- Pro Vice Chancellor of Research at The University of the West Indies, Professor Wayne Hunte
- Chief Executive Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Ms. Catherine Kumar
- Vice President of Human and Corporate Relations at the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Ms. Cassandra Patrovani Sylvester
- Senior Programme Manager in the Office of the Campus Principal, Mrs. Stacy Richards-Kennedy
- Let me recognize our representatives from the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training
- Campus Registrar, Deans and other members of Campus Management
- Colleagues of the UWI St. Augustine Campus

- Our representatives from the UWI Guild of Students and Postgraduate Association
- Specially Invited Guests
- Members of the Media

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- Good morning!
  
- I am absolutely thrilled that the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies is hosting its first-ever week of activities dedicated to showcasing and promoting its research! This Research Expo 2013 truly promises to be **informative, engaging, exciting and memorable!**
  
- And so, before I continue I invite you to view a short video outlining the various activities that are scheduled to take place during the first week of October for our Research Expo 2013.

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\*\*\* Transition into Video \*\*\*

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- Now isn't that exciting?
  
- As Campus Principal, one of my strategic initiatives has been to re-invigorate the Campus' Research Agenda. We have been working steadily at this over the last few years through various initiatives, including:
  - **Increased engagement** – through meetings and workshops with our Professors and active researchers, and postgraduate forums for our students;
  
  - **Enhanced Capacity-Building** – through initiatives such as the Staff Research (STAR) seminar series led by our Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CeTL); RDI Fund information sessions on research impact, among others;
  
  - **Dedicated Research Funding** – through the establishment of the UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund (RDI Fund) which has a focus on 6 thematic areas<sup>1</sup>, and our Campus Research and Publication Fund (seed money for small scale research)

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<sup>1</sup> (1) Climate Change and Environmental Issues; (2) Crime, Violence and Citizen Security; (3) Economic Diversification and Sector Competitiveness; (4) Finance and Entrepreneurship; (5) Public Health; and (6) Technology and Society.

- **Specific Incentives** – by recognizing and rewarding outstanding research in our bi-annual Research Awards Ceremony also supported by NGC;
  - **Increased Dissemination** – through academic publications as well as UWI Today, STAN, a column in the Express entitled “UWI Research in Action”, our Research Information Management System (RIMS); website, social media networks, and many more.
  - And of course, our biggest showcasing of our research – **UWI Research Expo 2013!**
- And let me say, we are truly grateful for NGC’s support here as we promote all the good work our staff and student researchers have been engaged in. I would therefore like to publicly extend heartfelt thanks to the President of NGC, Mr. Indar Maharaj, for his organization’s unstinting support for the UWI St. Augustine Campus. Of course, we are also grateful to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training for their continued support. I have been advised that the dedicated funding for research, which this Principal, with the support of his academic and administrative staff, has worked steadily and studiously to put on a new, exciting and impactful platform, may now be challenged but I have urged the Honourable Minister to re-consider this both in the interest of the university and of the country as there is little funding available at the UWI and nationally to

support the development of a strong and vibrant research and innovation sector.

We have a great platform upon which to build.

- **To our media partners**, we say thank you for coming out today and for covering the launch of this Research Expo! People sometimes say that they don't know what research UWI is engaged in, or how UWI's research is making a difference in society. So we are counting on you to help spread the word about the very good research work being done across our 7 Faculties and various Research Units. Whether it is in print, television, radio or online, we all have a duty to inform and educate on the ways in which research contributes to the development of Trinidad and Tobago and the region. In so doing, we will not only build awareness but also inspire others, especially our young students, to explore new areas, pursue new opportunities and become more engaged in research.
- We also need the public and private sector to partner with us more in the area of research so that we can support and really drive business incubation, innovation and entrepreneurship. In this regard, I am so happy that NEDCO, NIHERST, TSTT, BPTT, Republic Bank, Business Development Company, the Idea to Innovation Initiative of the Ministry of Planning, First Citizens Bank, the

Association of Professional Engineers, and our own Biz Booster of the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business<sup>2</sup> are present today at this launch. We will have a dedicated space for an Investor Lounge within the Expo for our researchers to have side-meetings with representatives from the public and private sector and civil society. We do look forward to strengthening our collaborations and working in partnership with you to advance research, innovation and development in Trinidad and Tobago.

- Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attention and for your support of this landmark initiative – the UWI Research Expo 2013!

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<sup>2</sup> Confirmed RSVP received as of Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Sept.