



INSIDE TVET

TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

Plus for wellness tourism

BARBADOS' spa and wellness sector will benefit in the near future from an increase of therapists who are trained and certified to international standards.

Twenty persons last weekend commenced training with the locally and internationally accredited **Personal Body Health Care Clinic and School of Holistic Therapies**. The 20 trainees, who are either employees of spas or graduates of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic's (SJPP) Esthetics programme, are pursuing the ITEC Level 3

Diplomas in Holistic Massage and Anatomy and Physiology, respectively, as well as Level 2 Business Awareness and Level 2 Professional Conduct.

The duration of the courses will be for a combined total of 560 hours.

ITEC stands for the **International Therapy Examination Council** which has been in existence since 1947. ITEC is a United Kingdom (UK) based therapy examination body which is UK government accredited and whose qualifications are recognised internationally in over 38 countries. It is the largest international examining body for holistic, spa and

beauty therapies worldwide.

ITEC courses reflect best practice through the use of occupational standards on which the training, assessment and certification are based. Principal of the school, Patricia Berry-Greenidge said: "We are an ITEC-approved centre and we are also registered with the Barbados Accreditation Council. We started in 2007 with nine students and the current class has 20 students, who in addition to Holistic Massage,

and, Anatomy and Physiology, are doing advanced classes in Reflexology, Aromatherapy and Sports Massage."

She noted: "Our pass rate is extremely high. We have had 40 graduates to date all of whom, except one who gained a pass, have achieved credits or distinctions. Practice is extremely important in our programmes and, in addition to the written exam which is held once a year, students also do a practical exam as well as case studies and a portfolio. All examinations and assessments are conducted by ITEC."

Berry-Greenidge, who has a background in education and youth counselling in addition to being a practicing Holistic Therapist (i.e. therapy that focuses on mind, body and spirit) since 1997, stressed that experiential learning was important to good performance and best practice. The training institution, which is located at Endeavour, St Thomas, has five trainers and can accommodate a maximum class size of 20 persons.

"Graduates of our programmes work with spas (both locally and abroad), on cruise ships and have established their own businesses," she noted.

In keeping with the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council's** mandate to



A CROSS SECTION of the students from the **Personal Body Health Care Clinic and School of Holistic Therapies** who are doing the ITEC Level 3 Diplomas in Holistic Massage and Anatomy and Physiology, respectively. (GP)

Spa and wellness industry to gain internationally certified therapists



PRINCIPAL of the **Personal Body Health Care Clinic and School of Holistic Therapies**, Patricia Berry-Greenidge (left), providing guidance to a student as she practises the Holistic Massage techniques. (GP)



TRAINER with the **Personal Body Health Care Clinic and School of Holistic Therapies** Ann Maxine Depeiza (right) observing as a student practises her massage technique. (GP)

promote and support education and training to national, regional and international standards, the **TVET Council** is subsidising the cost of the ITEC training through the **Employment and Training Fund (ETF)** which is managed by the Council.

The ETF provides training grants to applicants comprising employers, registered training institutions and employer/employee associations that have met

specified criteria. Key criteria include up-to-date National Insurance (NIS) contributions and training that is conducted according to a competence-based format utilising occupational standards.

The TVET Council's sponsorship of the ITEC training supports the Government's focus on the development of Health and Wellness Tourism as a viable economic sector. In March this year, at the **Health and**

Wellness Tourism Stakeholders Conference held at the **Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre**, Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner noted in her opening address that the Health and Wellness market was a billion-dollar market which was still growing and which could benefit Barbados once an infrastructure that embraced world class standards, both at the human and organisational levels, was put in place.