



TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

INSIDE TVET

TERTIARY EDUCATION PROVIDERS are now better equipped to develop curricula for competence-based education and training (CBET). This is thanks to the collaboration of the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC) and the **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council** which recently hosted a workshop on **Curriculum Design and Development for Competence-Based Education and Training** at the Savannah Hotel in Hastings.

During the delivery of the feature address, Yvonne Walkes, chairman of the BAC, stated that her organisation recognised that a globally competitive post-secondary or tertiary education system in Barbados demanded that education providers be equipped with the necessary tools and techniques for developing "high quality educational programmes of study and courses that can effectively compete with others, based on international standards".

Walkes also remarked that there was an increase in competition between local and foreign providers for the same student groups as a result of the liberalisation of education and training globally and the free movement of labour and skills through mechanisms such as the Caribbean Community Single Market and Economy. As a result of this increased competition, the BAC had observed a growing demand for quality education and training and recognised qualifications, she said.

The chairman emphasised that "as economic, social and technological changes gather momentum; people everywhere need to continuously develop their knowledge and skills, so that they can live and work meaningfully in today's society".

She noted that given its commitment to the continuous improvement of the quality of teaching and learning at the tertiary level, the BAC decided to collaborate with the **TVET Council** to host the workshop.

In her remarks, Wendy McClean, manager, technical services, **TVET Council** endorsed the chairman's comments. McClean stated that the collaboration between the **TVET Council** and the BAC was "a natural undertaking given the complementary mandates of both organisations".

She said that the **TVET Council's** focus was "on the standards of competence that individuals are expected to demonstrate while performing work activities", and that "the **TVET Council** subscribes to the view that quality and effectiveness in education and training must be driven by standards."

McClean anticipated that there would be similar collaborations with other agencies to advance the cause of workforce development in Barbados and the Caribbean.

In highlighting the vital link between occupational standards of competence and training, McClean presented a scenario where the standards could be used as learning outcomes in the development of a training programme for a supervisor who must possess the knowledge and skills to provide leadership for his or her team, develop productive working relationships with colleagues, allocate and check work in his or her team, and provide learning opportunities for colleagues.

McClean emphasised that

competence-based education and training allowed the training provider to assess trainees against the occupational standards. Learners on entering the programme knew what they were expected to achieve and what would be assessed.

At the end of the training, learners could provide employers with proof of their ability to perform competently in the workplace.

The three-day workshop, which attracted 25 local education

providers, was facilitated by Kay Skeete, a curriculum development practitioner who has been trained both locally and internationally and who has worked in the tertiary education and training sector since 1985.

The rigorous training workshop involved lively exchanges, discussions and group work on curriculum development, design and planning. The aim of the workshop was to:

- Contribute to the overall improvement of the quality of

educational provisions in the curriculum development of the educational providers that attended;

- Help participants improve their ability to compete in a liberalised marketplace through the acquisition of skills and expertise in this area; and

- Serve as a platform for dialogue, exchange and sharing of experience, expertise and innovative practices in the design and development of curricula suited to the CBET environment.

The participants noted that curriculum designers and those who delivered occupational training programmes had to be passionate about people development, thorough and attentive to detail, driven by a commitment to quality standards, and dedicated professionals who understood the far reaching impact of their work.

The participants indicated that they found the workshop was informative, beneficial and well executed.



FACILITATOR KAY SKEETE (left) presenting during the Curriculum Design and Development for Competence-based Education and Training (CBET) Workshop. (GP)

Joint workshop's focus on tertiary curriculum design



SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS at the Curriculum Design and Development for CBET Workshop. (GP)