



INSIDE TVET



TVET COUNCIL'S Senior Technical Officer (Quality Assurance) Debra Hope (standing, fifth from left) posing for a photograph with participants of the recently concluded **External Verifier Training Workshop**. Sitting, from left, **Harold Oxley, Audrey Reid, Claire Belgrave, Cheryl Harding**, (standing, from left) **Alison Elcock, Fernando Balkaran, Shelley Carrington, David Cox, Hope, Richard Gittens and Morton Holder**. (GP)



TECHNICAL OFFICER Andrea Harding-Waithe interacting with fifth formers of the **Princess Margaret Secondary School** during the first presentation delivered by the **TVET Council** as part of a **TVET promotion campaign**. (GP)

External verifiers complete training

THE Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council last week completed a training workshop for External Verifiers (EVs) as part of the quality assurance management process for the **National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)** and its regional equivalent, the **Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ)**.

The group of ten new EVs underwent a total of 20 hours of training during which they covered topics such as: An introduction to the **TVET Council**, competence-based education and training (CBET) and NVQs/CVQs, the role of the Assessor and the Assessment process, the role of the Internal Verifier (IV) as part of the internal quality assurance process and the role of the EV as part of the external monitoring of the quality assurance process.

Senior Technical Officer Debra Hope explained that External Verifiers are appointed for specific qualifications to ensure that all assessments are fair, valid, and consistent and meet the requirements of the qualification and the Awarding Body.

She said: "The **TVET Council** is working diligently to make sure that there are sufficient External Verifiers available to ensure the reliability, credibility and validity of the National Vocational

Qualifications (NVQs) of Barbados, and the regionally approved Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs)."

The foundation of a reliable system of quality assurance is an essential part of the NVQ and CVQ programmes. The integrity and credibility of the programmes are built on:

- Clear, well defined occupational standards
- Valid and reliable assessment, and
- Robust quality assurance.

EVs are people with proven occupational expertise as demonstrated by possessing the relevant experience and qualifications. They are required to assess the ability of an organisation to deliver NVQs/CVQs and monitor and sample the assessment process and interval verification systems.

Hope noted that the **TVET Council** was moving towards the implementation of the **CVQ in Assessment Verification (External) Level IV** so that all EVs would be trained and certified to regional standards.

NVQs and CVQs are competence-based certification that serve as the foundation of workforce training and development in Barbados and throughout CARICOM. They are aimed at developing and certifying

competence in workers through the provision of training, assessment and certification that rests on employer/industry specified occupational standards.

NVQs/CVQs are awarded once:

- Individuals have demonstrated to a trained and certified assessor that they have met the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitude required by the employer-specified standards, in either a 'real work' or realistic work environment
- Assessment decisions are confirmed by trained External Verifiers.



STUDENTS of the Princess Margaret Secondary School complete individual action plans during the first presentation delivered as part of the **TVET promotion campaign targeting the youth**. (GP)

TVET promotion targeting youth

AS THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY responsible for the coordination and planning of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Barbados, one of the **TVET Council's** key functions is to support the advancement of vocational education and training and to promote the recognition of vocational qualifications.

In keeping with its role and in a bid to increase participation in vocational training, the **TVET Council** has commenced a TVET promotion campaign targeting the youth, which includes a series of sensitisation presentations to schools as part of informing young people and other stakeholders about:

- The **TVET Council's** role and functions
- Where and when TVET opportunities are available and how to apply
- The short and long term benefits of TVET
- How TVET can complement academic qualifications and/or be a viable alternative
- The importance of vocational training and certification to developing job competence
- How TVET can enable rewarding employment and successful career pathways.

The presentations will initially be delivered to fourth and fifth form students of the secondary schools which are expected to participate in the pilot of the **Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) Level 1** programme from September 2010 and then subsequently to all secondary schools.