



TVET - Key To A WorldClass Workforce

# INSIDE TVET

**THE FOUR NEWEST NVQ in Amenity Horticulture Level I awardees (from left) Lingrove Walkes, Beverley Millar, Leonard Yearwood and Adalbert Browne displaying their certificates. (GP)**



**THE National Sports Council's Beverley Millar (centre) officially being presented with her NVQ in Amenity Horticulture Level I by the TVET Council's Technical Officer Paul Puckerin (left). Also pictured is Director of the Sports Council Erskine King. (GP)**

## Skills upgrade gives company green edge

IN THIS technologically driven age, computer-aided design — or CAD — has become the best friend of architects, draughtsmen and engineers as they seek to create plans and construction drawings as part of their jobs.

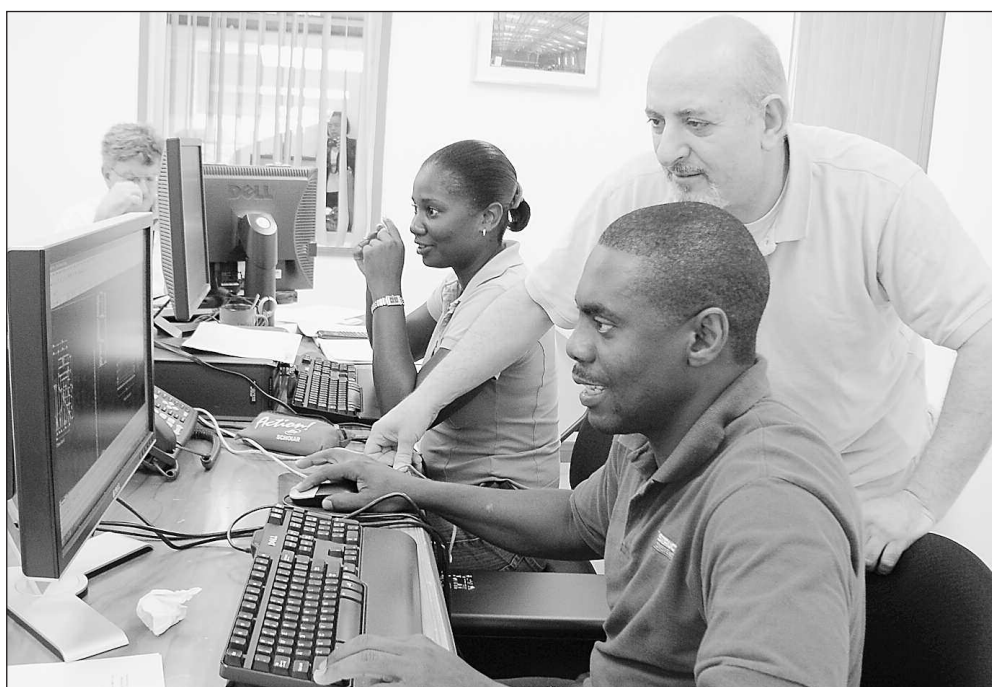
It is expected then that companies in the local building industry such as Structural Systems Ltd, established since 1975 and the third oldest company in the Williams Industries Inc. group of companies, would make sure its employees are knowledgeable and skilled in the use of some of the best CAD technology available.

A group of the company's draft persons, therefore, recently completed a three-day intermediate level training workshop in the use of FrameCAD ProDesign, software used for detailing cold formed (metal stud) structural steel buildings.

In keeping with the TVET Council's (TVETC's) mandate to promote and support training to national, regional and internationally recognised standards, the cost of the workshop was subsidised by the TVETC through its Employment and Training Fund (ETF).

General Manager of Structural Systems Ltd Andre Gibson explained the importance of the training: "FrameCAD's ProDesign software enables the design and engineering for homes, small commercial and mid-rise structures through its powerful software suite.

"Once the design is complete, the cold formed steel studs are roll formed to the exact specification and the structure is prefabricated off



**FRAMECAD TRAINER NADER ELHAJJ assisting draughtsman Harold Archer during the recently concluded three-day training workshop. Also pictured are Industrial Engineer Charlene Jones (second from left) and civil engineer Kenny Allen (left, partly hidden). (GP)**

site, significantly decreasing the onsite construction time. FrameCAD's ProDesign software complies with multiple international building codes and standards."

The workshop's trainer, Nader Elhajj, a structural engineer with over 27 years of design and construction experience, pointed out: "FrameCAD is used in about 85 countries around the world. It has been around for about 22 years and is the largest supplier of construction technology in the world."

He noted: "FrameCAD is a technology solution provider; it provides the fabrication machines, the software and the technology transfer in the form of training and support."

Elhajj emphasised that FrameCAD was also 'green' or sustainable technology.

"Steel is 100 per cent recyclable so you do not have to use natural resources. Steel is the most recycled material in the world. It is the best material to withstand hurricane winds, earthquakes and it is termite resistant, so it has specific advantages for your country," he said.

The TVETC is a statutory organisation dedicated to improving the competitive position of Barbados through workforce development. The Council has also adopted the Competence-based Education and Training (CBET) model for vocational training, which has been endorsed by the Council for Human and Social Development

(COHSOD), for use in all CARICOM member states since 2002.

TVETC is mandated to plan, coordinate and establish occupational standards and qualifications for the discipline of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The TVET Council also manages an ETF which promotes workforce training by providing grants to applicants who comprise employers, registered training institutions and employer/employee associations that have met specified criteria. Key criteria include up-to-date National Insurance contributions and training that is conducted according to a competence-based format utilizing occupational standards.

## Sports Council recognises NVQ awardees

THE TVET COUNCIL (TVETC) recently joined with the National Sports Council (NSC) to formally congratulate their first set of National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in Amenity Horticulture Level 1 awardees.

Speaking at a small ceremony last month at the NSC's My Lord's Hill, St Michael office, TVETC's Technical Officer with responsibility for Amenity Horticulture, Paul Puckerin, acknowledged the contribution made by the NSC in the development of the Amenity Horticulture occupational standards on which the NVQ is based.

"We wish to thank and acknowledge the Sports Council for its role in being a partner in the development of the standards which began as far back as 2006. To date the NSC's Mr Ronnie Thompson, Mr Hartley Clement, Mr David Haynes and Mr Wayne Smith continue to serve as active members of our Amenity Horticulture Lead Body."

Puckerin said the achievement of the NVQ in Amenity Horticulture by the NSC's staff could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the four awardees Lingrove Walkes, Beverley Millar, Leonard Yearwood and Adalbert Browne; the External Verifier Richard Graham, whose role was to ensure that the assessment process met the standards, and the support of the Sports Council's management.

He added: "The NVQ in Amenity Horticulture Level 1 was the first to be awarded at the national level. Other awardees have come from the Sandy Lane Hotel, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) and Nature Care. In addition, we now have Level 2 approved as a Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ)."

The CVQ is based on occupational standards that have been approved by CARICOM for use as regional standards. Occupational standards are set by industry experts (i.e. employers and practitioners) and are benchmarked against international standards. They are used in the work-related training, assessment and certification of persons.

Puckerin stressed: "The TVET Council is committed to the promotion of Competence-based Education and Training (CBET) — i.e. standards-based — and we encourage awardees and the management of the NSC to uphold the standards of the NVQ in Amenity Horticulture."