



TVET – Key To A WorldClass Workforce

# INSIDE TVET

## Worldskills Barbados competition launched

UNDER THE THEME **Shaping a World Class Workforce through Innovation, Creativity and Skills Development**, the inaugural Worldskills Barbados Competition, scheduled to take place March 7-9, 2012, was formally launched last Tuesday in a ceremony held at the PomMarine Hotel, Hastings, Christ Church.

Worldskills Barbados is a uniquely modeled competition targeting students in the 16 to 25 age group who are enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

During opening remarks, Chairman of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council – **TVET Council** – Dr. Hensley Sobers described the initiative as an avenue intended to “facilitate and highlight excellence in skills development that meets international competence-based standards”.

He said: “Barbados is the second English-speaking Caribbean country to become a member of Worldskills International (WSI), a not-for-profit membership association open to agencies or bodies which have responsibility for promoting technical and vocational education and training in their respective countries/regions.

Worldskills International Competition.”

Sobers noted that the main objectives of Worldskills Barbados were to promote excellence in skills development and improve performance standards in the workplace, to increase participation of employers in technical and vocational education and training, and, to promote the value of technical and vocational skills and training.

He explained that the Worldskills Barbados Competition and the TVET Employers Recognition Awards, a national awards competition aimed at employers who invest in workforce training, which was launched last month, were both in keeping with the **TVET Council's** mission to develop a competent and competitive workforce in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

### Strengthening TVET

“Through sponsorship of the Worldskills Barbados Competition and participation in the TVET Employers Recognition Awards, corporate Barbados can support the **TVET Council** in strengthening this country's technical and vocational education and training system,” he stressed.

During her remarks, Minister of Labour and Social Security Dr. Esther Byer Suckoo said it was an exciting time for workforce training in Barbados and the launch of Worldskills Barbados tied in with other government initiatives such as the introduction of National and Caribbean Vocational Qualifications,



**SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC student Charlene Christmas gave a live demonstration of her artistic skills during the Media Launch of the Worldskills Barbados Competition at the PomMarine Hotel last Tuesday. (GP)**

the use of competence-based education and training and increased emphasis on quality assurance of the education and training system.

Chief Executive Officer of the Crane Hotel Kennedy Swartsingh, during the delivery of the featured address, warned of the dangers of continuing to do things in the same way because of tradition.

He called for the use of innovation, critical thinking and “creative destruction” as a way to get rid of things that do not work which “we do not know how to get rid of (and) all you hear is that's how we have always done it”.

Worldskills Barbados is modelled after the Worldskills International Competition which is a global “skills Olympics” held in one of 55 member



**CHARLENE CHRISTMAS presenting the painting, completed in just about four minutes to the sound of music from the Lion King soundtrack, to TVET Council's Executive Director Henderson Eastmond. (GP)**

countries every two years to provide young people ages 16 to 22 the opportunity to compete and demonstrate their excellence in skilled professions and occupations. Worldskills Barbados would, however, be extended to people 25 years of age who are pursuing a skill in preparation for entry into the world of work, as well as those involved in evening programmes.

This live competition targets students attending the Samuel Jackman

Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP), the Barbados Community College (BCC) and the Barbados Vocational Training Board.

### Areas of competition

Participants will be nominated by their respective institutions and will compete in the areas of culinary arts, fashion technology, beauty therapy, automotive technology, web page design and hair dressing.

Participants will compete

in a preliminary round during December 2011 when eliminations will be held at the respective training institutions to select their best students to go forward to the finals on March 7 – 9, 2012.

The BCC will host the Culinary Arts competition finals at its Hospitality Institute, the PomMarine Hotel, on March 9, and, the SJPP will host the other five competition areas at its Wildey, St Michael campus on March 7-8.