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NEW TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AT UCCI

The University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) and the Cayman Islands Ministry of Education have collaboratively designed three high quality education programmes to prepare students for teaching in a government or private school at the primary level.

“In partnering with UCCI to develop these programmes, we have ensured that the programmes provide opportunities for students to meet the requirements of the Cayman Islands National Professional Standards for Teachers. The standards define the professional attributes, knowledge, understanding and skills expected of all teachers in the Cayman Islands Public Education System,” said Mrs. Mary Rodrigues, Chief Officer of the Ministry of Education, Employment and Gender Affairs.

The new Associate of Arts in Primary Education Programme prepares students to support teaching and learning in the schools, while the updated Bachelor of Science in Primary Education Degree prepares students to be qualified teachers. In addition, the new Post Graduate Certificate in Primary Education offers a 15-month programme for career changers or those holding a bachelor’s degree in another subject area who are in need of the education methods courses to become a teacher.

The Hon. Tara Rivers, Minister for Education, said, “I encourage anyone interested in a career in teaching to consider the education programmes at UCCI. The main aim of the programmes is to provide persons aspiring to a career in teaching with the professional training and experience necessary to develop as effective and reflective teachers.

There will be opportunities for individuals enrolled to work along experienced teachers in schools and therefore gain first-hand practical experience. The UCCI education programmes are specifically designed to bring together theory with practice and to ensure that potential teachers receive the necessary preparation to be successful in our schools.”

UCCI President Mr. JA Roy Bodden recognised the collaborative efforts of all three agencies saying, “I am pleased and proud to publicly applaud the Ministry of Education, the Department of Educational Services and the University College faculty who so meticulously and painstakingly crafted these programmes.”

“These educational programmes will complement the nursing programme which has been operational for approximately one year. In the Fall Semester, we anticipate the launching of the School of

Hospitality Studies. These programmes bode well for providing career opportunities for persons in the society who wish to embark on positive careers.”

President Bodden also noted that these developments speak to the growth and importance of the University College of the Cayman Islands as the foremost tertiary level training institution in the Islands. “It is of significant, historical import to note that these collaborative efforts have come about immediately after the institution emerged from its greatest challenge to date,” he said.

He also had a message to prospective students, saying, “As President, I implore and encourage Caymanians, as well as others, to avail themselves of these learning and career opportunities. In this era of lifelong learning, it is indeed gratifying to know that there is available in these Islands such career opportunities.”

The new programmes have been designed specifically to meet the needs of schools and school children in the Cayman Islands. “We developed the curricula so that students learn best practice based on latest educational research”, said Ms. Terese Parker, Education Programme Leader.

“We have ensured that education methods courses include classroom experience enabling students to connect educational theory with authentic teaching and learning in the classroom. Students will also benefit from knowledgeable and experienced instructors who will work closely with them to ensure their success,” she added.

Part-time and evening classes are being offered to accommodate students who are working full-time jobs. For further information and to apply, please contact Ms. Terese Parker via email, tparker@ucci.edu.ky, or call 623-0526.