

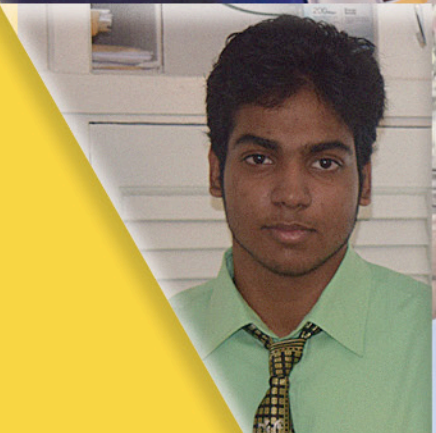


ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL ACCREDITATION
BOARD

NEWSLETTER

abnab

Vol 3: No 1
JANUARY
2017





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Inside this issue:

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - MRS. ELOISE HAMILTON

<i>The Cost of Education</i>	2
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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

<i>New ABNAB Staff Member</i>	3
<i>ABNAB launches Website at ABIIT</i>	4
<i>Tertiary Institution ASC contemplates accreditation</i>	5
<i>ABNAB upgrades ICT infrastructure</i>	8
<i>ABNAB visits ABIIT's Open Day</i>	9
<i>ABNAB increases its outreach to the public</i>	9
<i>Education for Advancement-Open Day</i>	10

YOUTH FOCUS

<i>Suzette Roberts – ABNAB Administrative/ Research Officer interviews</i>	13
<i>Brandon Judnarine – Best CSEC Student 2015</i>	
<i>Eustace Hill – Accreditation Officer interviews Akanii Simon</i>	13
<i>2016 Top CSEC Student 2016</i>	

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

<i>The Cost of Education in Saint Lucia</i>	14
<i>Reflections on the 13th Annual CANQATE Conference</i>	15

SPECIAL FEATURE

<i>Board of Education - 22 years of Scholarships</i>	16
<i>ABIIT – a viable cost effective alternative</i>	17
<i>Dr. Patricia Benn - ASC VP champions the cause of IT and on line learning</i>	20
<i>Dr. Errol Samuel- What the business sector requires from college graduates</i>	21

DISCUSSION POINT

<i>7 Tips for Choosing the Right Overseas College</i>	22
<i>10 Strategies for Reducing the Cost of Tertiary Education</i>	23

QUESTION AND ANSWER	24
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ADVERTISER'S INDEX

GLOSSARY OF TERMS



ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL
ACCREDITATION
BOARD

NEWSLETTER abnab

Vol 2: No 2
DECEMBER
2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MRS. ELOISE HAMILTON



THE COST OF EDUCATION

Education is costly. Many of us who have had the benefit of free primary and secondary education, and maybe even free tertiary education, may not be aware of the real costs involved. After all, it was free to us. Or was it really? Someone had to pay. As the saying goes, 'There are no free lunches'.

As governments seek to provide quality education and parents seek to access that education, cost is invariably a major factor. In this issue, the role of the Board of Education in providing scholarships for higher education is highlighted. We also present other information relevant to the cost of education in Antigua and Barbuda, as well as in St Lucia.

In fact, seven critical tips are given for choosing an overseas college. Admittedly, the cost is astronomical and so 10 strategies are provided for reducing that cost.

ABIIT's 15 years of excellence in delivering non-traditional IT Centric Education is also highlighted as a cost effective, tried and tested alternative to going to North America, immediately after CXC.

On line learning has become a popular option for Antiguan; however, Dr. Patricia Benn, Vice President of Antigua State College, shares insights from her doctoral thesis about the government policy and also the IT infrastructure which are needed for the successful implementation of eLearning in Antigua and Barbuda.

In this issue as well, you will also find 'Youth Focus' which will now be a regular feature of our newsletter.

While it is true that ABNAB's mandate is directed at the tertiary sector, we also seek to applaud excellence in the secondary sector. The remarkable excellence of Brandon Judarine, who achieved the best results in the history of CXC-22 subjects with 21 A's in 2015 is celebrated. So too, is the performance of Akanii Simon, best CXC student for 2016 with 17 subjects. Most importantly, we wish to inspire all students who are preparing to sit CXC in 2017.

In most cases, graduates, upon completion of their secondary and tertiary education, have

to seek employment. However, employers are now looking beyond the skills and educational background of prospective employees. Dr. Errol Samuel, quality management and human resource consultant and president of Profiles Consulting Ltd, points to other variables and new approaches considered by prospective employers, as they attempt to recruit quality employees.

I invite you to read our Newsletter, the last for 2016, and be informed. This is an invaluable resource for students and parents.

On behalf of ABNAB, I wish you a very wonderful Christmas season, and a very successful 2017.

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LOCAL ACTIVITIES

ABNAB GETS BUSY



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL ACCREDITATION
BOARD

*New ABNAB Staff Member
ABNAB launches Website at ABIIT
Tertiary Institution ASC contemplates accreditation
ABNAB upgrades ICT infrastructure
ABNAB visits ABIIT's Open Day
ABNAB increases its outreach to the public
Education for Advancement-Open Day*

SUZETTE ROBERTS NEW STAFF MEMBER AT ABNAB

In September, the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board welcomed on board a new member of staff. Ms. Suzette Roberts began duties as ABNAB's Administrative and Research Officer. Ms. Roberts last worked as a teacher at the Irene B. Williams Secondary School and brings to ABNAB many skills, particularly in the areas of Information Technology and Accounting. In the space of just a few months, Ms. Roberts has already shown herself to be a valuable asset to the organization.

In response to the question about how she was adjusting to her new job, Ms. Roberts replied: -

Theodore Roosevelt stated, "Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are". When I was awarded the opportunity to take up the post of Administrative/ Research Officer at the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board I was not sure how the transition from classroom duties to clerical duties would work out. However, I was reminded of what I have said to my students about being able to transfer learning from one discipline to another and that is what I did.

Three months functioning as Administrative/ Research Officer have presented opportunities for learning, along with the many challenges of workplace diversity. While many may perceive diversity in the workplace as a factor for stagnation, I embrace both the learning opportunities and the challenges of diversity in the workplace as contribution to my professional growth and development.

As I continue to make my contribution to the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board, it is my hope that each day will be viewed from the lens of optimism, giving my all, to the fulfillment of the many tasks which lie ahead.

One very crucial role of Ms. Roberts is to research and verify the authenticity of credentials from various institutions. This activity is to ensure that Antiguan and Barbudans are not duped by high powered advertising by diploma mills or unaccredited institutions with low credibility.

Call Ms. Roberts and ensure you waste neither Time nor Money.

ABNAB is pleased to have Ms. Roberts on board and hopes that the relationship will be long and productive.



SUZETTE ROBERTS
Administrative/Research Officer (ABNAB)

*" Success is not final,
failure is not fatal. It is
the courage to continue
that counts."*

| Winston Churchill |



ABNAB LAUNCHES WEBSITE AT ABIIT

Expectation, hard work, and opportunity intersected on a hot, summer Friday morning at the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology for the launch of the ABNAB Website.

Mr. Rashorn Osborne, a Graphic Design major from ABIIT, had done the work.

He had researched all the websites from the region's Quality Assurance Agencies; he had evaluated their strengths and their weaknesses; he had made his presentation to the Technical Committee created by ABNAB, and had obtained invaluable feedback; he had made a brilliant presentation to the ABNAB's Board and had obtained an overall A grade; he had been coached by Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Hill of ABNAB. Then on the morning of Friday 2nd September, 2016, he was ready.

However, he had to wait for his Kodak moment for the assigned programme had his presentation at number 6.

The program started promptly at 10:30am, as Ms. Danelle Martin, Chairperson welcomed all to ABIIT, and to the Launch of the ABNAB's website.

Rev. Dr. Hensworth Jonas invoked God's blessing. ABNAB's choice of Dr. Jonas for this responsibility was neither incidental nor accidental. For the past 25 years, students at his school, the Baptist Academy, had defied the odds and had 100% passes in five subjects and more, including Mathematics and English at Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC).

The chairman of ABNAB, Mr. Clare Brown, echoed the sentiment of the ABNAB staff.

The choice of Mrs. Miguelle Christopher and Rev. Michael Butler to attest to the positive contributions made by ABNAB for empowering the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda was also not accidental or incidental. Mrs. Christopher lauded ABNAB for its outreach to the Training Department to ensure that from now on the courses they offered would be accredited, and therefore had both local, regional and international value. Rev. Butler expressed his sincere appreciation for how ABNAB worked with him to interpret his qualifications, and to present them to a University in England for which he subsequently got acceptance to pursue his lifelong dream of pursuing a Law degree.

"ABNAB HAS COME OF AGE."

At then the Kodak moment, Mr. Rashorn Osborne, the man of the hour presented. Regrettably, there was a glitch in the system, and his plans to dazzle the waiting audience with his brilliance, his innovation and his genius was not fully realized. It was clear however to all and sundry he had done the work and that the thirteen services of ABNAB would now be available 24/7 on our Website: www.abnab.edu.ag.

The services included the following:

1. *Free Quarterly Newsletter*
2. *Academic Counselling*
3. *Institutional Strengthening and Development*
4. *Visit to Schools and Clubs*
5. *Workshops*
6. *Registration and Re-registration of Tertiary Institutions*
7. *Accreditation and Re-accreditation of Tertiary Institutions*
8. *Program Approval*
9. *Equivalence Assessment*
10. *Weekly articles in the local newspaper*
11. *Facebook*
12. *Instagram and*
13. *Twitter Accounts*

The Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Mr. Michael Browne expressed his pleasure at the coming of age of ABNAB and the launching of the Website.

Mrs. Eloise Hamilton, Executive Director of ABNAB, shared ABNAB's strategic vision. She stated unapologetically that she was optimistic that all our local national colleges will move from the status of just being registered to being accredited, and therefore merit unquestionable regional and international currency.



Photos - ABNAB's Website Launch, Friday 2nd September, 2016

1. Mrs. Hamilton 2. Cross-section of the audience 3. Mrs. Brookes-Harris giving the vote of thanks
4. Mrs. Miguelle Christopher sharing appreciation 5. Mr. Butler applauding ABNAB



Mrs. Carla Brookes-Harris, one of ABNAB's Directors, thanked the audience of about 90 persons and all the presenters for attending the launch of ABNAB's website.

Indeed, ABNAB, has come of age, and moving on, to create an ethos of quality and to ensure socio-economic development through quality education by the accreditation of programs and institutions in Antigua and Barbuda.



6. Mr. Clare Browne Chairman
7. Minister of Education
Mr. Michael Browne



ANTIGUA STATE COLLEGE CONTEMPLATES ACCREDITATION

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB) was invited by the Antigua State College to make a presentation at its Staff Professional Development Day which was held at the beginning of the 2016/17 Academic Year.

At this forum, a number of issues critical to the development of the College were explored. ABNAB was pleased to be part of this annual event. The Antigua State College is one of the leading tertiary institutions in the nation, and offers a variety of academic, technical, and professional programmes.

The College, although registered with ABNAB as mandated by The Accreditation Act of 2006, is now desirous of moving to the accreditation stage. The ABNAB presentation outlined the steps which need to be taken to move the institution from Registration to Accreditation. Particular focus was placed on the need for the preparation of a Self-Study Report, a key component in the accreditation process.

The tedious nature of the exercise was acknowledged, but ABNAB presenters, Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Hill pointed out to the workshop participants the benefits of achieving accreditation status and asked them to weigh those benefits against the challenges of the journey to get there.

The presenters described to the staff members present how a self-study

report is compiled and offered to provide more detailed information if requested, and also to support them in any way that they could.

The ABNAB presentation was well received and the Antigua State College seems set on beginning the journey to Accreditation.

Mrs. Hamilton speaks to ASC Staff



ASC staff members absorbing information



Mr. Forde (Principal) observes Mr. Hill's presentation





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ABNAB UPGRADES ITS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES

THE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD (ABNAB) IS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING AN ETHOS OF QUALITY IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, NOT JUST BY PRECEPT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY EXAMPLE.

It is for this reason that the most recent project has focused on the upgrade of the IT infrastructure. IT infrastructure includes computers, printers, telephones, and so on.

In fact, ABNAB is responding to initiatives which seek greater visibility and greater impact.

These initiatives include, but are not confined to, the following:

- **Launch of the ABNAB's website**
- **Social Media accounts for Instagram and Twitter**
- **Weekly articles in Caribbean Times Newspaper**

- **Planned visits to 21 secondary schools and**
- **Training of evaluators for the accreditation of our tertiary institutions**

To date, the upgrades have included a new printer, copier and fax combo, a Nikon Digital Camera D3300 with 24.2 megapixels, and the networking of all the computers and printers, and training. Kevin Ambrose from Bestech, and Troy Gibson and Romell Dickenson from the Ministry of Information and Technology, have worked assiduously to improve our network system.

In addition, negotiations have begun

BESTECH Team



Eustace Hill (ABNAB) receives cheque from Marlon Higgins of GBC towards camera.



Troy Gibson from MIT after completing network systems



Kevin Ambrose from Bestech inspecting HP printer

with APUA to explore the various options for the best fit for our telephone system.

The upgrade in the IT infrastructure is not an isolated event. The physical infrastructure is also planned for upgrade. It is expected that the planned upgrade will become a reality early in 2017.

Undoubtedly, ABNAB is on the move.

ABNAB VISITS ABIIT'S OPEN DAY

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) held an Open Day just before the start of its 2016/17 Academic Year. Several partners were invited to be part of the Open Day by operating booths and advertising their products or services.

ABNAB was happy to use the opportunity to engage ABIIT's returning and prospective students and provide them with information about the many services offered at our agency.

Many of the individuals who stopped at the ABNAB booth were regrettably unaware of the existence of the agency. ABNAB recognizes that despite appearances on national radio and television and on other media outlets, as well as weekly articles in a local newspaper, greater effort still must be made to market itself and its services to the general public.



1. Ms. Suzette Roberts (ABNAB) poses for photo moment
2. Ms. Roberts and Ms. Russell (ABIIT Intern) pose for photo moment
3. Mrs. Hamilton chats with VibzFM DJ
4. Ms. Danielle Martin (ABIIT) chats with Mrs. Eloise Hamilton (ABNAB)

The presence of VibzFM at the Open Day conducting a live broadcast, provided the perfect opportunity for spreading information about ABNAB and its services. Executive Director, Eloise Hamilton spoke to the many loyal listeners of VibzFM about the work of ABNAB and invited them to make full use of the many services available at a minimum cost.

ABNAB INCREASES ITS OUTREACH TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH CARIBBEAN TIMES - A LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Our message of "a quality ethos" must not only be verbalized; it must be published and personalized.

This message of quality transcends the traditional perspective of quality for "academia".

This message of quality through accreditation is for the socio-economic development of Antigua and Barbuda. Put simply, it is the same type of socio-economic development that was chronicled in our last newsletter concerning St. George's University in Grenada. In summary, St. George's University in Grenada injects 268 million US dollars into the local economy annually. In addition, the cultural diversity created by having 7,000 students from 140 countries is invaluable; not to mention the research on local illnesses, the scholarships, the international conferences, the list goes on and on.

Well done St. Georges University Grenada!

Indeed, you have merited the name - the Mecca of Caribbean Educational Tourism because of your emphasis on quality education.

It is this type of quality tertiary education that we are optimistic for ABIIT, and ASC, and ABHTI. The type of quality education that would impact effective water policy, food security, energy independence, culinary mastery, not to mention, good high paying jobs. The end product is Antigua and Barbuda, an economic powerhouse, as envisioned by our Prime Minister.

It is for this very reason, namely socio-economic development, that we are delighted that Mr. Justin Peters-Editor of Caribbean Times, visited ABNAB headquarters and discussed with us the plans to make an ABNAB item a weekly feature of the Caribbean Times.

We commend Mr. Peters for his confidence



Article written by ABNAB featured in Caribbean Times Newspaper
Outreach through Caribbean Times

in the importance of our message and the quality of our articles.

To date, at least ten 12 articles have been featured in the newspaper.

Indeed, ABNAB is reaching out, and making a significant impact. Quality will become our hallmark in Antigua and Barbuda, and ABNAB will be at the forefront of this quest.



Justin Peters and Eustace Hill deliberating.



EDUCATION FOR ADVANCEMENT – OPEN DAY

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB) was invited to make a presentation at an Open Day sponsored by Education for Advancement (EFA). ABNAB was very happy to accept the invitation because

it provided the agency with another opportunity to speak to potential university students about accreditation and the need to choose wisely.

This opportunity was of particular significance because EFA caters to students pursuing higher education using the on-line platform. While it is true that there are 'brick and mortar' academic institutions with questionable reputations issuing diplomas and degrees, it is in the on-line environment that much of the fraud takes place.

In the ABNAB presentation, the importance of accreditation was stressed. ABNAB also provided the audience

of over 50 persons, with information on Diploma Mills and other types of unaccredited institutions. Examples of how unsuspecting individuals were duped of their money by these institutions were given. ABNAB shared with the audience ways in which they could detect these institutions. Persons were advised to contact ABNAB if they had concerns about any academic institution.

Members of the audience showed great interest and a number of them asked questions at the end of the presentation. Additionally, several of them have since sought further information from ABNAB.



Cross-section of the individuals in attendance at EFA Open Day
Photo courtesy – Petra Williams

YOUTH FOCUS

SUZETTE ROBERTS – ABNAB ADMINISTRATIVE/ RESEARCH OFFICER INTERVIEWS

BRANDON JUDNARINE – BEST CSEC STUDENT 2015 BEST CSEC STUDENT EVER

When one thinks about the cost of education, tuition and fees are the first to come to the fore. However, there are other costs to consider during this pursuit. One such cost is time, and two of Antigua and Barbuda's top 2015, and 2016 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) students have invested a great amount of time in their pursuit of knowledge.

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board had the opportunity to interview Mr. Brandon Judnarine and Mr. Akanii Simon

respectively, to find out how their investment of time generated high returns.

BRANDON JUDNARINE

1. Your results are extremely outstanding. You have the best Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate results in Antigua and Barbuda, 2015, the best CSEC result in the Caribbean, and the best results in the history of CSEC. Will you be willing to share with us the list of your subjects taken at the CSEC level?

- Mathematics
- Additional Mathematics
- English B
- English A

- Principles of Business
- Principles of Accounts
- Economics
- Office Administration
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Human & Social Biology
- Integrated Science
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Information Technology
- Electronic Data Processing Management
- French
- Technical Drawing
- Building Technology
- Social Studies
- History



Suzette Roberts – ABNAB
Administrative/Research
Officer interviews Brandon
Judnarine

2. What factors would you say have contributed to this unusual outstanding performance?

- Like with most success stories, much credit is due to my strong support system: my parents, my elder brother, my church, my teachers, my principal, the list goes
- On the eve of my exams, my mother and father both stayed up with me until they could hold out no longer, to serve as beacons of encouragement and solidarity. Parents do indeed have a great role to play in the education of their children, and a strong support system from a good household distinguishes a good student from an excellent one.

3. Is your education fully Antiguan, and could you list the schools you would have attended?

- Yes, my education is fully Antiguan. I attended the Salvation Army Preschool, T.O.R Memorial Primary School, and St. Joseph's Academy.

4. What about balancing? Do you do anything besides study?

- I was a member of my school's basketball and volleyball team. I practiced karate regularly, and I am an avid leisure reader. The several bookshelves in my house are overflowing. I also make a point of going out regularly with friends, hiking, diving, etc. Time management was a significant challenge for me at first, but my mother came to the rescue. She helped me draft timetables for reviewing materials and completing assignments.

5. We have been informed that you started Junior Science Quiz since Form One and continued to Form Three. Could you share with us some of the details related to that program?

- St. Joseph's Academy has its own Science Club which serves as a bi-weekly forum of sorts with special focus on the Junior Science Quiz and the National Science Fair. In First Form, I would come across students practicing for the Junior Science Quiz and I began to attend their practices- not in vain, because one Saturday afternoon on my way back from karate I got a phone call and Mr. Davis, our Principal, informed me that there was a spot with my name on it on the team, and I assured him that I was indeed interested. During my three years, we played 11 matches, and won 10 of them, and I captained the team for 8 matches.

6. What about your mentors? Do you have a teacher or teachers you would like to highlight at this time?

- Special mention must go out to Ms. Pauline Maloney, who was especially kind and supportive of me during my final year. She would offer me lessons at no cost to myself, and needless to say, were it not for her selfless act, I could hardly have dreamed of becoming the top CSEC student for the region, let alone set an 'as-yet-unbroken' record.

7. Could you share with us your future academic plan, and how you plan to, if possible, impact Antigua?

- I am currently enrolled in the American University of Antigua, and I have every intention of completing the four-year program here, two years of clinical rotations in the USA, as well as a residency of variable length depending on what particular field I choose to



Mr. and Mrs. Judanarine, parents of Brandon with Suzette Roberts

specialize in (I must admit that the prospects of oncology and neurosurgery are particularly enticing to me).

8. What words of advice would you like to give us at this time, specifically for students pursuing CSEC exams in June 2017?

- Never take the people around you for granted. Study hard for a finite time; don't be afraid to de-activate social media accounts in the weeks leading up to your exams. Be especially diligent when constructing your SBAs (School-Based Assessments); much confidence is inspired when you walk into the examination hall with marks in the bank already. Finally, don't hesitate to go the extra mile. Can you still become successful with less than 22 subjects? Of course! But if you have the ability, and you wish to challenge yourself, don't be daunted by the prospect. If I can do it, if people around the Caribbean can attempt 20 subjects, then so can you! I am confident that the requisite skills are present in Antiguan and Barbudan students, and the Antiguan educational system is uniquely able to facilitate achievements of this nature. God Bless.

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YOUTH FOCUS

EUSTACE HILL – ACCREDITATION OFFICER INTERVIEWS AKANII SIMON TOP CSEC STUDENT 2016



*Eustace Hill – Accreditation Officer and Akanii Simon
Inset- Suzette Roberts with Akanii's mom Gayle Matthew*

Hello, as you may know, my name is Akanii Simon and I've been attending the Baptist Academy of Antigua for most of my life. It was this school that prepared me for what is now my life's greatest achievement thus far; placing first in the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations in Antigua. I thank God upon every remembrance of this feat and I pray that He will continue to bless this school.

1. Will you be willing to share with us the list of subjects taken at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Level?

- English A
- English B
- Spanish
- Caribbean History
- Social Studies
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Human & Social Biology
- Integrated Science
- Information Technology
- Office Administration
- Principles of Business
- Principles of Accounts
- Economics
- Physical Education & Sports

2. Who was your support system?

In terms of a support system, my mother Gayle Matthew was and is first and foremost. She was always there to provide anything I needed, from school supplies to words of encouragement. She ensured that I was prepared for every day of school. Whenever the task seemed a bit daunting, she would remind me of what I told her in 2011. It was at the Lime Awards that I told her if I was still attending the Baptist Academy of Antigua, I would come first. Since then, she has consistently reminded me of this, my driving force towards excellence.

My school has also played an important role in supporting me. These teachers are truly hardworking, refusing to rest until everyone got the concept of whatever was being taught. From time to time they would even use their class period to lecture us and get us into a mindset of success. These lectures played through my mind before every exam and really did aid in my achievement.

I would also like to mention my friends who utilized my competitive nature to sharpen themselves and to push me onward. They would also constantly tell me that they knew I could do it. One friend even jokingly told me that they looked forward to saluting me at the Youth Rally this year. Their support did help me to reach this point.

3. Nature of education?

Initially, I attended the Foundation Mix Primary School for a year in my early childhood days. After that, from first grade until now, I have been attending the Baptist Academy of Antigua. Being able to attend this school truly was a blessing for me.

4. Who would you consider your mentor?

Once again, my mother finds herself being the first person I mention. As a mentor, she would ensure that I didn't over work myself leading up to the exams. At the same time, I could never get too relaxed and should be prepared to study at any time. Also, I must mention her countless prayers and words of encouragement.

One other person I should acknowledge here is my accounts teacher, Mrs. Benjamin. She was the one who would always say that she liked A's, but B's sting and C's drown. To a child with an active imagination, I would not enjoy seeing (or rather thinking about) my teachers being 'stung' or 'drowned' by these grades. This was instilled in me at a young age. To me, only A's were acceptable. B's and C's, although passes,

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



• *The Cost of Education in Saint Lucia*

• *Reflections on the 13th Annual
CANQATE Conference*

THE COST OF EDUCATION IN SAINT LUCIA

Education is a recognized catalyst for human and socioeconomic development. Acknowledging this fact, Saint Lucia has always made significant investment in this sector.

For the financial year 2014/15, the total expenditure for the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development and Labour was EC \$185.9 m. Following the trend of earlier years, the education sector received the second highest allocation of the national budget at 14.9%. This represented 4.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

All levels of education are regarded as vital, but in the allocation of the education budget closest attention is paid to the compulsory school levels. The largest share of the 2014/15 budget went to Primary (34%) and Secondary Education (39.5%). The recurrent expenditure on Secondary Education was EC\$65.3 million. During that period, a total of 12,861 students and 1,023 teachers were enrolled at the 23 public secondary schools. The average disbursement per secondary



Esther Braithwaite - Permanent Secretary

school student was EC\$5,077. Recurrent expenditure for Primary Education for that same period was EC\$56.7 million. Enrolled at the 74 public primary schools were 15,799 students and 1,008 teachers. The average cost of educating a primary school student was EC\$3,589.

The balance of the budget was distributed among the other levels and key programme areas. Tertiary Education received EC\$15.7 million, approximately 9.5% of the total education budget. That amount is the approximate annual subvention to Sir Arthur Lewis Community College which is the national tertiary education institution. Early Childhood Education received EC\$2.58 million and the National Enrichment and Learning Programme which targets

adult and continuing education in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) and enrichment programmes received EC\$0.73 million. Adult learning programmes are held at primary or secondary schools around the island after school hours. The Ministry's Student Support Services Unit which provides assistance to needy students at the primary and secondary levels received EC\$1.1 million for school feeding and book bursaries programmes. A total of 6,879 students (44%) benefitted from the school feeding while 1,586 (10%) benefitted from bursaries. Additionally, the Transport Subsidy Programme which is a transportation programme for students attending secondary schools across the country expended EC \$3.4 million on bus subsidies for 2,068 (16%) secondary school students. Finally, Special Education received EC\$2.9 million towards the operation of five 5 special education centers with a total enrolment of 361 students supervised by 64 teachers.

Statistical data was taken from the Ministry of Education's Educational Digest 2014/2015.

Ministry of Education, Saint Lucia September 2016

Data was taken from the St. Lucia Ministry of Education's Statistics Digest 2014/2015 (September 2016).

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

YOUTH FOCUS - AKANII SIMON

would leave me slightly disappointed. Academic excellence was a must.

5. How did the school system and culture contribute to your success?

Another feature of the school that led to my success was the demystifying of math. Making it a requirement for promotion at every grade level ensured mastery of it. Those who failed are given the

opportunity to strengthen their skills during summer school and passing there would lead to promotion.

6. Any encouraging words of wisdom for the other aspiring students?

To aspiring students, I would tell them to never say that they can't do it. This is not the mindset to have. Instead of 'I can't', they should be thinking 'I can' and 'I will'. Your mindset is a crucial factor in determining what you can accomplish. After we have the right mindset, the next step is to discipline ourselves and work hard towards the goal. Preparations for

CSEC exams will not last forever, give it 100%, your absolute best.

7. What would be your final words to students preparing for CSEC in 2017?

Finally, I would like to challenge students to encourage and sharpen each other. A student is not defined by one good or bad grade, so we should be constantly building each other up not pulling each other down. Help one another. Seek to be the best, regardless of the number of subjects you are doing. You can do it!

REFLECTIONS ON THE 13TH ANNUAL CANQATE CONFERENCE

Sustaining a Culture of Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education for National and Regional Development



1. Mrs. Hamilton receives certificate of participation at conference
2. Cultural display at CANQATE 13th Annual Conference
3. Mr. Hill greets Professor Alan Cobley
4. Mrs. Hamilton et al. enjoying treats at CANQATE 13th Annual Conference

The next issue of the ABNAB newsletter will zero in on some of the issues raised in papers presented during the 13th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance Tertiary Education (CANQATE) held in Guyana during October 4-7, 2016, but in this issue, ABNAB will present brief reflections on the event.

The Conference took place during that period of time when there was considerable disruption to flights in the region as a result of the passage of Hurricane Matthew which affected a number of territories. As a result, a few presentations had to be cancelled and others re-scheduled as some presenters had to cancel travel plans and some arrived late. In spite of those difficulties however, I consider that the conference, under the theme 'Sustaining a Culture of Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education for National and Regional Development' was a success.

The pre-conference workshop under the theme 'Strategies for Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement in Institutions', facilitated by Dr. Leon Wilson from Alabama State University was quite engaging. Dr. Wilson described the Continuous Performance Improvement process and emphasized the point that anything and everything can be improved. There is indeed never

a stage when no further improvement can be made. Another important point that resonated was that problems are usually found in processes, not in persons. Improvements can be made in outcomes by improving the processes, not changing the persons managing the flawed processes.

Part 2 of the pre-conference activity was a Seminar facilitated by Dr. Eduardo Ali of CARICOM. The Seminar Topic was: 'The 2030 Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Strategy-Implications for Quality Assurance, Qualifications Frameworks and Accreditation Priorities'. Dr. Ali highlighted the stages involved in the development of the HRD strategy and pointed out the several consultations held with stakeholders. It was also interesting to know that CARICOM/CANQATE discussions are ongoing and ABNAB's expectations are that these discussion on matters like establishing protocols for joint regional accreditation exercises, mutual acceptance of accreditation and independent evaluation of accreditation councils will indeed be fruitful.

The Conference itself which opened the following day was interesting and stimulating. Both plenary and concurrent presenters covered a wide range of issues and gave participants

much food for thought over the two-day period. This article will however only mention a few of the presentations.

Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, was the first plenary speaker and presented on the topic, 'Civil Society as a Critical Stakeholder in Building and Sustaining a Culture of Quality Assurance'. Professor Griffith spoke of the composition of Civil Society and highlighted three important values which should guide civil society. These values are 'excellence', 'integrity' and 'transparency'. He suggests that 'transparency' is one way of enabling civil society's institutions to save themselves from themselves.

Another plenary presenter was Professor Alan Cobley, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies at the University of the West Indies. His presentation was entitled: 'The Role of National and Regional Universities in Building and Sustaining a Quality Culture in the Caribbean for National and Regional Development'. Professor Cobley's posited that national universities have a special obligation to ensure that they deliver high quality education to the people of the region.

CONTINUED - PAGE 25



SPECIAL FEATURES

- Board of Education - 22 years of Scholarships
- ABIIT – a viable cost effective alternative
- Dr. Patricia Benn - ASC VP champions the cause of IT and on line learning
- Dr. Errol Samuel- What the business sector requires from college graduates

BOARD OF EDUCATION- 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Across the world, but particularly in developing nations, access to quality education at the tertiary level is of paramount national importance because empowerment of the citizens through education is a necessary ingredient in national development. However, year after year, college and university tuition fees continue to increase and so access to higher education is limited. In Antigua and Barbuda, as elsewhere, many persons cannot finance tertiary education and so seek scholarship assistance.

The Board of Education (BOE), established by the Board of Education Act 1994 is, among other things, responsible for providing funds for scholarships, bursaries and other such awards in Antigua and Barbuda. These funds are primarily derived from the Education Levy which is a 5% charge shared equally by employers and employees and channelled directly to the Board of Education. A specific amount is allotted each year for funding of new scholarships and honouring existing scholarship obligations.

ABNAB had the good fortune to sit with Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ms. Leslie-Ann Yearwood and the Chairman of the National Scholarship Committee (NSC), Ms. Arianne Hill who provided information on the operations of the



Carla Farquhar
Executive Secretary of BOE



Leslie-Anne Yearwood
Chairman of BOE



Arianne Hill
Chairman of NSC

Board of Education generally and on scholarships in particular.

The Board Chairman Ms. Yearwood, explained that the establishment of the Board of Education was, in part, the government's response to the



BOE before - (downstairs only)

complaints from the people about scholarship opportunities and in part a response to the challenges of financing quality education. She then went on to identify some of the ways in which the Board of Education is contributing to the education sector. The Board assists with scholarships; the payment of wages and salaries to certain categories of workers; maintenance of school plants; and the provision of free text books to primary and secondary level students. The funding of scholarships and the purchase of text books in fact take most of the Board's funds. According to

Ms. Yearwood, 'the Board of Education is really the back bone of education in Antigua and Barbuda'.

In order to effectively manage the scholarship programme, a specific department was established within the BOE. A National Scholarship Committee comprised of responsible individuals from both the public and private sectors, reviews all the applications, and then forwards its recommendations.



BOE two buildings now – maintenance building shown above

The selection of the Board of Education scholarship awardees is based on a combination of financial need and merit. Applicants must show that they have the capacity to complete the scholarship with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The amount awarded is a maximum of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

ABIIT – A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AFTER 15 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

by Ms. Danelle Martin



Ms. Danelle Martin
Head of Campus (Ag)

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) was established on October 1, 2001, with the vision “to be the leading I.T. centric educational institution within the Caribbean region.” The mission of the institution is “to foster academic access, scholarship, and excellence as it builds a cadre of human resources with the skills, knowledge and attitudes, which are current and relevant for the global job market.”

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology has lived up to its mission as it has become an integral part of the tertiary education landscape within Antigua and Barbuda, and throughout the entire Caribbean region, developing individuals with the technical knowledge & skills needed to power their nation's economies.

In keeping with its mission to build a cadre of human resources with the skills, knowledge and attitudes which are current and relevant for the global job market, the institution has developed a fully online, and hybrid Associate Degree in Human Resource Management. This degree is home grown, and is the first of its kind in the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

ABIIT offers eight 8 associate degree programs and two 2 diploma programs across the Business, Information Technology, Architecture, and Graphics disciplines. ABIIT continues to act as key strategic partner in aiding local business organizations in developing the technical knowledge and skill-sets needed to realize their institutional goals and objectives.

ABIIT - EDUCATING YOU FOR THE WORLD

In the first quarter of 2016, ABIIT successfully trained over 50 individuals from the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority, and the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board in Computer Applications and Information Technology.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology provides a learning environment for students, which is second to none within the nation of Antigua and Barbuda. The 31,000-square foot building has, an elevator, handicapped accessible bathrooms, a library/learning center, cafeteria and other modern amenities

to make the learning environment as conducive to learning as possible. ABIIT provides fully air-conditioned I.T. infused classrooms for students equipped with projectors and computers. The West Wing of the institution is fully equipped with wireless hotspots, allowing students to utilize their personal electronic devices on campus to enhance their learning experience, and conduct research. Instructors at the institution utilize a multiplicity of technical resources within the classroom to enable them to cater to the different learning styles



ABIIT's Staff poses for photo moment

of students, and to provide students with the same modern amenities they would receive if they travelled aboard.

In November of 2015 the Minister of Education, Science & Technology finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Institute from Miami, Florida, which established the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology as their University partner for the OECS region and Barbados. This is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ABIIT - before and now





**START YOUR CLUB WITH
ONE OF OUR CSRS TODAY!**

Members can join the Club/Box any day in January.
The minimum amount required to start is only E.C. \$50
You can start the club with that amount or more.

The same amount must be "thrown" each month.
Our Holiday Club runs from: **January - November**

You cannot withdraw from this club until it matures.
Once matured at the end of November, you will receive the amount
contributed plus a special interest.

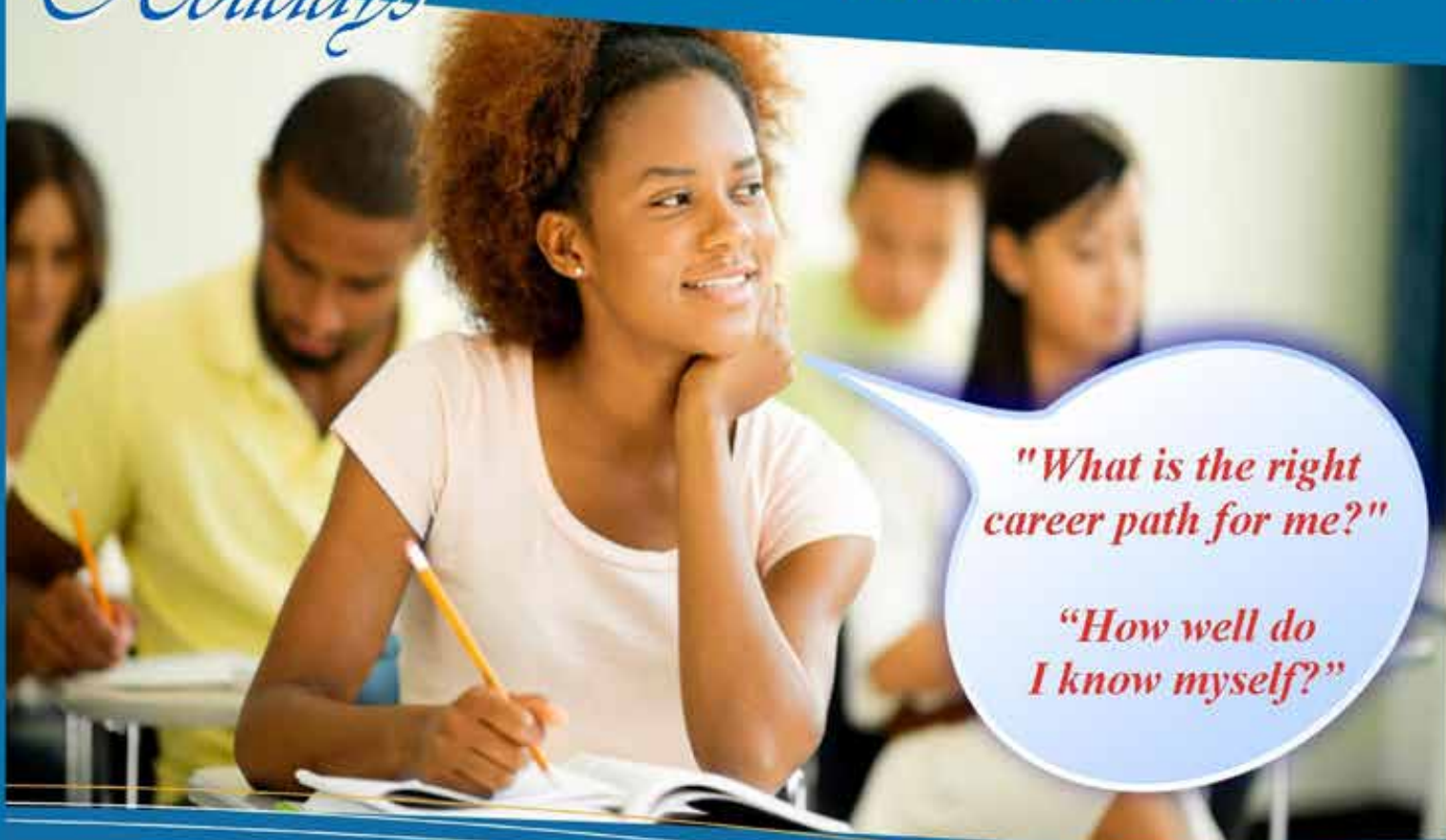
**If you are unable to start in January you can join in February
with two months payments.**

*Happy
Holidays*



The Pathway Planner

discover your career path...



*"What is the right
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SPECIAL FEATURES CONTINUED

DR. PATRICIA BENN - VICE PRINCIPAL ASC CHAMPIONS THE CAUSE OF IT TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE LEARNING FOR DOCTORAL THESIS

The study investigates the processes by which the Department of Teacher Education at the Antigua State College learned to use Moodle, a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), as a tool to offer courses online. Also under investigation were the tensions inherent in this change process.

In this qualitative research, the data was generated from multiple sources, including multiple interviews with participants, personal journal entries, and workshop evaluations. Most of the data presentation and analysis took place concurrently. The process of learning to use Moodle took place over a three year period and involved 4 main training events and just-in-time support.

This research also points to the importance of administrative issues of monitoring, evaluation and accountability in ensuring the implementation and sustainability of the project. Without a mandate or incentive, it is mainly those participants, who liked trying something new that engaged the students online optimally.

"THE STUDY POINTS TO THE FACT THAT THE ADOPTION OF eLEARNING REQUIRES A CONSIDERATION OF MANY FACTORS IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE."

Despite the fact that traditionally, teacher educators have not been included in educational reform strategies in any significant degree, my research suggests that the teacher educators are very conscious of the critical role they play in the professional development of the student teachers. Theirs is the

complex task of not only teaching content and pedagogical knowledge and supervising the student teachers on teaching practice, but they are also starkly conscious of their role in modeling professional practice. Indeed, for some participants it was their unwillingness to protect incompetence, in use of the VLE that prevented some of them from engaging more fully when their typing and computer skills did not allow them to be efficient.

This suggests that any initiative which involves teacher educators must take into account the pride they take in their role of modeling professional practice.

Furthermore, given the complexity of the role of teacher educators, consideration could be given to offering them the requisite support which would make the adoption more effective.



Dr. Patricia Benn has been working at the Antigua State College for over 20 years. She spent 17 years in the Department of Teacher Education where she was the Head for 10 years. Currently, she holds the position of Vice Principal of the College. She gained a Bachelor of Arts degree and a post graduate diploma in Education (Dip. Ed.) from the University of the West Indies in 1979 and 1981 respectively. She completed her Master of Arts degree at Kean University, Union, New Jersey, in 1993, and completed her doctoral degree in Teacher Education, at the University of Nottingham in 2016.

The study points to the fact that the adoption of eLearning requires a consideration of many factors if it is to be effective. Of critical importance, is reliable and consistent Internet. It was the non-functioning of the internet which prevented the research participants from applying what they had learnt after the first workshop and even halted the progress of the third workshop. It was also the absence of reliable internet access which resulted in some participants discontinuing to use Moodle.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES EMPLOYER LOOKS FOR IN RECENT GRADUATES

Dr. Errol Samuel, Ph.D.

Hiring new employees can be a time consuming and challenging task as employers try to find perspective employees who are “fit” for the position. Depending on the level of the position, a college/university education is essential. However, employers are looking for employees with other attributes that assure them that they will save the cost and hassle of replacing employees who don’t perform well, while decreasing their employee turnover rates.

As a result, in addition to the traditional hiring process that focuses primarily on evaluating a candidate’s skills and technical qualifications, companies are incorporating a competency-based approach that includes an analysis of a candidate’s behavioral characteristics as well.

Competency-based hiring is grounded in the identification of core competencies required for success and the subsequent evaluation of each candidate’s demonstration of those competencies in their past experiences. In analyzing a candidate’s behavioral characteristics, an organization can match the employee with a job they will enjoy doing.

Competency-based tools include psychometric assessments which reveal consistent, in-depth, and objective insight into an individual’s thinking and reasoning style, behavioral traits and occupational interests.

Thinking and Reasoning Style assesses the ability of the candidate to write and speak well, to think clearly about complex problems, to analyze a problem to develop workable solutions, to understand numbers

and statistics and the ability to obtain, process and disseminate information.

Behavioral Traits assess the candidates on the following:

- *Motivation and appropriate energy level.*
- *Ability to work in a team structure.*
- *Ability to make decisions and solve problems.*
- *Ability to apply knowledge and skills in new settings.*
- *Ability to plan, organize and prioritize work.*
- *People and process awareness and having an understanding of global context in which work is now done.*
- *Sense of ethics and integrity.*
- *Attitude of self and the working environment.*
- *Attitude toward leadership and management; relevant work experience and past leadership roles.*
- *Independence and objective judgement in their decision making.*

OCCUPATIONAL INTEREST:

This element assesses the candidate’s ability to perform in the position for which they seek. It assesses the candidate’s enterprising, financial and administrative interests as well as appreciation to deliver people service. It also assesses their creative, technical and mechanical interests.

SUMMARY:

In this competitive working environment, employers are integrating competency-based tools in their hiring process to measure how well an individual fits specific jobs in their organization. These tools enable the employer to evaluate an individual relative to the qualities required to successfully perform in a specific job. They help managers interview and select people who have the highest probability of

In this competitive working environment, employers are integrating competency-based tools in their hiring process to measure how well an individual fits specific jobs in their organization.

being successful in a role, and provides practical recommendations for coaching them to maximum performance. Further, they are used throughout the employee life cycle for selection, managing and strategic workforce planning. Therefore, college and university graduates should become aware of the new employee recruitment processes that are being utilized by businesses today as they prepare themselves to enter the world of work.



Dr. Errol Samuel, Ph.D. is President of the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd. and President of Profiles Consulting Ltd (an Antigua and Barbuda Firm engaged in Management Consulting, Market Research, Quality and Human Resource Management and Consulting).



DISCUSSION POINT

- 7 Tips for Choosing the Right Overseas College/University
- 10 Strategies for Reducing the Cost of Tertiary Education

7 Tips for Choosing the Right College

Part of the mandate of the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB) is to inform and educate the general public on matters relating to higher education. ABNAB visits secondary schools nationwide and provides information to students on the benefits of obtaining a tertiary education. A college/university is vital but has serious cost implications. During the visits to schools ABNAB also offers to students "7 tips on choosing the right college or university" by using an acronym C- O- L- L- E- G- E.

C

COST

What sort of costs are involved? Consider some of these costs.

- Tuition
- Accommodation
- Books
- Internal and external travel

O

OPPORTUNITIES

What opportunities does a particular College offer?

- Scholarships?
- Internships?
- Academic and professional training on the same track?
- After graduation placement?

L

LOCATION

Where would you prefer to be? (This can affect costs too)

- At home? (Local institutions, or online)
- Somewhere close to home? (Regional institutions?)
- Someplace close to family? (eg in USA or UK)
- Someplace far from home? (Exotic location)

L

LEGITIMACY

Know what the status of the institution is. Know which to avoid. It could be a:

- Diploma Mill
- Unaccredited institution with low credibility
- Unaccredited institution with high credibility
- Accredited institution

E

ENVIRONMENT

What type of college environment would you be comfortable in?

- Religious
- Sports
- Cross Cultural
- Big/Small Campus

G

GENERATE

Generate a list of 4 Colleges (based on your research done so far)

- College A
- College B
- College C
- College D

E

EXPERIENCE

Check out the experiences of others at the colleges identified:

- Friends and family
- Facebook
- Internet
- Rating from the academic community

Now you can go ahead and make an informed choice.

10

STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

A survey conducted by the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB) of 52 colleges in April 2016 revealed that the cost of tertiary education can be astronomical. The survey included 7 colleges from Antigua and Barbuda, 5 from the Caribbean region, 8 from the United Kingdom (UK), 5 from Canada, and 27 from the United States of America (USA).

The cost of education of a four year degree in our local colleges ranged from \$5,000 to \$268,000, the regional colleges from \$40,000 to \$302,000, the UK colleges from \$63,000 to \$135,000, and the US colleges from \$27,000 to \$430,000. EC dollars please? Unbelievable! Consider the cost for two members of the family.

We are aware of the seemingly irresistible attraction of studying in the United Kingdom (UK), Canada and the United States of America (USA), and therefore we offer 10 tried and tested strategies for reducing your cost of your tertiary education.

1. Get a scholarship: Sources of scholarships in Antigua and Barbuda are:

a) Board of Education (BOE) gives \$13,500EC per year to successful applicants per year for normal

scholarships, and \$54,000EC per year for an Island Scholar. As of 2016, the cumulative amount spent by the Board of Education Scholarship Committee (BOESC) is \$110 million EC dollars. The BOESC 9-members, headed by Ms. Arianne Hill.

b) Prime Minister's Office also gives \$13,500EC per year to successful applicants in scholarship. As of 2015, \$20 million EC dollars has been spent on Scholarships. The Prime Minister's Scholarship Committee comprises of a 5-member team headed by Mr. Maurice Merchant.

c) Antigua Commercial Bank – Louis Lockhart Scholarship Fund gives \$60,000 EC for a student beginning final year studies at University of the West Indies. Over an 18-year period, over \$1 million EC dollars has been spent on Scholarships. The Louis Lockhart Scholarship Committee comprises of a 9-members, headed by Director Reginald Peterson.

d) O.A.S Scholarship Fund gives \$30,000US per year, per student and the scholarship runs for a minimum of one year and a maximum of two years.

e) Mill Reef Scholarship Fund gives \$43,000 EC per student.

f) Individual Scholarships through charitable donations are now being offered to students of Antigua and Barbuda. These will be full scholarships in the field of engineering. Board Of Education Is Only Able To Give 137 or 40 Percent Of Those Who Apply (343) for 2016.

2. Do an Online Program (at home) at an accredited or recognized university:

The boarding and accommodation costs are about \$50,000 EC.

3. Do a 2+2 program:

For example: It is possible to study for two years at the Antigua and

Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) or Antigua State College (ASC), and two years at an American University (of your choice) that is affiliated with ABIIT or ASC – the savings can be as much as \$50,000 EC.

4. Work on Campus:

Some colleges offer the option of working on Campus.

Admittedly, the salaries vary from campus to campus, but all reports indicate that the salaries are noteworthy and the experience invaluable.



5. Do a fast track program with reduced summer breaks:

For example: The University of Law in England offers a 3-year Law Program in 2 years. The same content is covered but there are significant savings because summer breaks are reduced.

6. Do a double track program:

In some professions like Accounting and Information Technology which have an academic and professional track, it is possible in some colleges to pursue a professional and academic program concurrently. The savings are considerable.

7. Do an internship:

This option provides both experience and needed finances. Many universities

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Q&A

Q Is the cost of institutional accreditation likely to increase the cost of education at the tertiary institutions in Antigua and Barbuda?

A It can indeed be costly for a college or university to obtain and maintain accreditation status. Apart from the cost of the actual visit from the evaluation team, there are other associated costs as the institution prepares itself for the accreditation process. An institution applying for accreditation may need to address concerns about the quality of the physical plant, may need to upgrade equipment, may have to hire additional faculty, or may need to address any number of issues in order to meet the standards set down by the accreditation agency.

It is therefore possible that the costs associated with obtaining accreditation will be passed on to students and be reflected in an increase in fees. However, it is also possible that the move to accreditation, as part of the institution's Strategic Plan, will in fact allow the institution to use its new status to recruit more students. With an increase in enrolment, it may not be necessary to increase fees significantly.

It must be stressed however that although accreditation might be costly, tertiary institutions should not be deterred. The value gained for both institution and its students, in ABNAB's estimation, justifies the expense incurred.

Q Is it necessary to have accreditation from ABNAB if you already have accreditation or affiliation from reputable US/UK institutions?

A In Antigua and Barbuda at this time, institutional accreditation is not mandatory. The decision to seek accreditation is purely a voluntary one. It is therefore not necessary for colleges and universities operating in Antigua and Barbuda to seek accreditation from ABNAB. ABNAB does however recognise the accreditation given by other recognised accreditation agencies. However, a college's mere affiliation to, or articulation with other recognized colleges or institutions does not make it accredited.

It is however mandatory for all tertiary institutions operating in Antigua and Barbuda to be registered by ABNAB. Whether or not the institution is accredited by or affiliated with another agency or institution, the law in Antigua and Barbuda requires that registration be sought and obtained from ABNAB. Registration by ABNAB signifies that the particular institution has met or exceeded specific standards established by ABNAB. These standards relate to the courses/programmes offered, faculty, facilities, legal status and learning resources, among other things.

While accreditation is not mandatory in Antigua and Barbuda, ABNAB strongly suggests that unaccredited colleges and universities operating here move to that level in order to improve their standing in the international education community.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

ABIIT – A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AFTER 15 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

significant hallmark for the nation of Antigua and Barbuda, and signifies ABIIT's commitment to the further development of the nation's financial sector, and the cultivation of world-class professionals to aid Antigua and Barbuda in being fully compliant with global compliance, and regulatory laws.

ABIIT also has partnership arrangements with Pace University,

Monroe College, Mid-Western State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, and St. Mary's University.

Indeed, after 15 years of providing I.T

centric education, ABIIT has earned its place as a viable alternative to attending North American Colleges. In fact, ABIIT provides a 2 + 2 arrangement (i.e. 2 years at ABIIT and 2 years in North America), which significantly cuts down on the cost of tertiary education.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 13TH ANNUAL CANQATE CONFERENCE

These universities must drive the holistic development of the entire region and must give value for the investment made by the national governments.

Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of the West Indies, Compton Bourne, tackled the critical issue of cost. His topic, 'The Cost of Building and the Source of Funding a Sustained Quality Culture' was very much on point. In his presentation, the high cost of running institutions was highlighted as well as the limited sources of funding. Creative funding was encouraged.

One of the concurrent sessions was facilitated by Ms. Anna Perkins and Ms. June Wheatley who presented on 'Vision 2030 "the Distinctive UWI Graduate": Contributing to National Development'. The paper explored whether or not the UWI graduate was significantly contributing to national development. The importance of the contribution of UWI graduates to regional development can clearly be appreciated if one were to imagine how the region would function

without UWI graduates for 1 day.

Another presenter during the concurrent sessions was Dr. Patricia Benn, Vice Principal of The Antigua State College. Her paper was entitled: 'The Adoption of a Virtual Learning Environment in a Teacher Education Institution: The Process and Tensions'. In this paper, Dr. Benn explored the processes by which the Department of Teacher Education at the Antigua State College learned to use Moodle as a tool to deliver courses. She highlighted some of the challenges which the persons involved in the study experienced and the strategies used to overcome them.

Another fascinating paper was presented by Dr. M. Ransome from the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The paper, entitled: 'The impact of Workplace Bullying on the Culture and Climate of Higher Education Settings', brought to the fore an issue long ignored but now getting worldwide attention. Research conducted in three institutions in Trinidad and Tobago revealed that a culture of bullying exists

in the higher education environment in that country. It would be instructive to replicate this study in other territories to see if the culture of bullying is pervasive in the region. The challenge is to institute policies to prevent workplace bullying.

Opportunities for networking at the conference were numerous. New contacts were established and old friendships rekindled during the breaks between sessions and at the social gatherings organized in the evenings. The social gatherings also gave participants the opportunity to observe the wonderful culturally diverse talent presentations of our Guyanese hosts as well as to showcase their own talent.

The craft exhibition held at the conference site over the entire period must also be mentioned. The creative abilities of these artistes can only be described as 'outstanding'. Conference participants appreciated the opportunity to purchase souvenir items right on site.

VISION STATEMENT:

To be the enabler of a guaranteed system of quality assurance in tertiary education in Antigua and Barbuda.

WHO WE ARE

The Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board (ABNAB) was established in 2006 by an Act of Parliament (No 4 of 2006)

WHERE WE ARE LOCATED

**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DRIVE
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA**

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Twitter – [Accreditation Board@AbnabBoard](https://twitter.com/AbnabBoard)

Instagram – [Accreditation Board Antigua](https://www.instagram.com/AbnabBoard)

SERVICES OFFERED BY ABNAB:

- Free Quarterly Newsletter
- Registration and Re-registration of Tertiary Institutions
- Accreditation and Re-accreditation of Tertiary Institutions
- Program Approval
- Recognition of Foreign Programmes and Awards
- Equivalence Assessment
- Institutional Strengthening and Development Workshops
- Visits to Schools
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ONLINE LEARNING?

STUDYING ABROAD?

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT AND LOSS OF FUNDS PROTECT YOURSELF CALL US TODAY

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL
ACCREDITATION BOARD**

NEXT EDITION:

**THEME OF CANQATE 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE –
Sustaining a Culture of
Quality Assurance in Tertiary
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

BOARD OF EDUCATION- 22 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

\$13,500 EC annually, for a period of three years in most cases. Penalties are in place if awardees do not maintain the academic and other standards set by the Board or if they fail to return after completion of their studies and make their contribution to national development. Outside of the regular scholarships the Board is also responsible for providing the funds for the Island Scholars. This award is based on the results of post - secondary examination and is worth \$54,000 EC annually, for the duration of their programme of study. In 2016, 138 new scholarship awardees were selected.

There are really no hard and fast rules regarding areas of study supported by the BOE. However, a list of government's priority areas is prepared annually by the Ministry of Education and circulated. The

Scholarship Committee Chair, Ms Hill indicated that in spite of this, the majority of the scholarship applicants were persons who were interested in pursuing studies in traditional areas especially in the social sciences. As a result, most of the awards were in those areas but the Committee is interested in awarding more Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) scholarships, especially in Engineering. A number of persons applied to pursue studies in law and medicine, but awards in these areas were 'on hold at the moment' as it was felt that these areas were saturated. Over the years, most of the awardees have been school leavers but a considerable number of teachers have been among the recipients as well.

Scholarship recipients have been able to access universities all over the world. However, most of them chose higher education institutions within the region. The University of the West

Indies (all campuses) has received the largest number of awardees. A significant number of students have also studied in Cuba. Outside of the region, most students have accessed universities in the USA.

The establishment of the Board of Education in 1994 was a bold experiment which can now be classified as a success story. Over the past 22 years approximately 3,500 persons have been empowered through BOE scholarships and approximately \$110 million EC has been spent on all categories of scholarships. Recipients of awards have been making and continue to make valuable contributions to Antigua and Barbuda and other parts of the world.

**SEE BACK OF NEWSLETTER
FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



FREE TRADE &
PROCESSING ZONE

10 STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING THE COST OF TERTIARY EDUCATION

and colleges in Canada and the United States of America offer this option.

8. Work in the USA or Canada for a year or two after graduating:

Visa arrangements in both USA and Canada afford this option.

9. Get an affordable student loan from any of the commercial

banks in Antigua and Barbuda:

- National Student Loan Fund offers a 3% interest rate loan. The National Student Loan Fund is headed by Mr. Lennox Weston.
- Antigua Commercial Bank offers a 9% interest rate loan, and gives student loans up to \$270,000 EC maximum. Repayment begins upon completion of studies.

10. Purchase second hand books and or online books:

The savings are considerable.

Our survey also indicates that a significant number of persons in Antigua and Barbuda are using Strategy 2-On Line Program, by first checking ABNAB to ensure the authenticity of the institutions.



Mr. Rudolph Davis, Principal of St. Joseph's Academy. Motivator for great success over the years.

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

PAGE

Inside cover	State Insurance Corporation
6	General Insurance Company
7	Antigua & Barbuda International Institute of Technology
12	Global Bank of Commerce – Executive
12	Global Bank of Commerce – Operations
18	Community First Cooperative Credit Union
19	Profiles Inc.
26	Antigua Commercial Bank
27	Free Trade Zone
Back cover	Board of Education

ABIIT	Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology
ABNAB	Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board
ACB	Antigua Commercial Bank
ASC	Antigua State College
BA	Baptist Academy
BOE	Board of Education
CFCCU	Community First Cooperative Credit Union
FTZ	Free Trade Zone
GBC	Global Bank of Commerce
GIC	General Insurance Company
ICT	Information Communication Technology
MIT	Ministry of Information and Technology
SIC	State Insurance Corporation
SJA	Saint Joseph's Academy

BOARD OF EDUCATION

22ND

Anniversary

CELEBRATING 22 YEARS

(1994 - 2016)

School General Maintenance	-	\$29,073,641.89
Antigua State College	-	\$12,730,589.95
CXC	-	\$2,096,419.13
Scholarships	-	\$109,413,684.40
School Supplies	-	\$21,878,591.20
MOE Curriculum Support	-	\$15,717,219.32
School Furniture	-	\$8,764,094.11
School Books	-	\$65,346,398.65
School Equip. & Equip. Maintenance	-	\$15,002,687.87
Capital Projects	-	\$40,260,995.29
TOTAL	-	\$320,284,321.81

MAKING A QUANTUM DIFFERENCE THROUGH YOUR EDUCATION LEVY DEDUCTION