



THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION

JCTE & HEART Trust/NTA PARTNERSHIP

The Joint Committee for Tertiary Education (JCTE) and HEART TRUST/NTA have entered into a partnership to meet the demands of the Jamaican workforce, including training, delivery and certification.

1. JCTE Occupational Certification Program: Occupational Associate Degrees

Dr Cecil Cornwall, Chairman of the JCTE and the members of the executive committee, have championed the cause for occupational degrees to be accessed by the National Vocational Qualification of Jamaica (NVQJ) and The Caribbean Vocational Qualification levels 2 and 3 graduates.

The Occupational Certification Program which integrates the TVET and Academic methodologies is designed to meet the needs of industry and ensure Jamaicans are able to compete in the global labour market. In partnership with the HEART Trust/NTA, through its Centre of Occupational Studies, the JCTE has piloted the development and execution of occupational degrees in seven tertiary institutions. The program began in October 2016.

The project aims to expand the pool of qualified technically competent workers, who will have access to a seamless transition between academia and TVET. This will be achieved while reading for higher level technical (occupational) training to the Associate Degree level. Two Hundred and fifty (250) NVQ/CVQ level 2 graduates will be enrolled in the first pilot for the October 2016 to June 2018 academic period. HEART Trust/NTA has provided grant funding for each student to gain an Occupational Associate Degree.

Participating institutions include:

- Bethlehem Moravian College
- Browns Town Community College
- Excelsior Community College
- College of Agriculture, Science, and Education
- Caribbean Maritime Institute
- G.C. Foster College of Physical Education & Sport
- Western Hospitality Institute

2. JCTE Absorptive Capacity Program

The JCTE has partnered with HEART Trust/NTA to implement the Absorptive Capacity Program.

Current capacity constraints in the labour market, has resulted in HEART Trust/NTA being unable to train approximately 11,000 applicants each year. Recognising the large number of unattached youth island-wide, the JCTE in collaboration with HEART Trust/NTA has developed the Absorptive Capacity Program to absorb a percentage of the applicants that are unable to be absorbed into the HEART labour market aligned programs. The three-year project seeks to expand access to National Vocational Qualifications – Levels 2-4 and eventually degree programs through training and certification by tertiary institutions. The project seeks to train over 4,000 individuals over the next three years and will be offered in 17 tertiary institutions beginning January 2017.

3. Upskilling & Retooling Project

The JCTE in partnership with HEART Trust/NTA have developed and introduced the Upskilling and Retooling Project, which commenced in August, 2016. Recognising employers' organisational development needs, the JCTE and HEART Trust/NTA have developed a program, which seeks to improve the knowledge and skill set of the general labour force and advance the careers of 3,000 Jamaicans (16 years and above) through a variety of courses accessible to employees, parents, retirees, and unattached youths. The courses will be delivered through the JCTE's 'Leadership Academy' and HEART Trust/NTA's 'Professional Skills Academy'. Professional certification will be provided by HEART Trust/NTA and the JCTE. The menu of courses will be targeted for growth and development over the next three years.

All three programs in the JCTE HEART Trust/NTA Partnership, have received the full support of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.