

## UCJ'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SET FOR OCTOBER 2017



The University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) will celebrate its 30th Anniversary

during the month of October, under the theme, "30 Years of Enabling National Development through Quality Assurance."

The month-long celebration includes:

- **The 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service:** Sunday, October 8, 2017 at the Boulevard Baptist Church, 2 Washington Boulevard, Kingston 20, starting at 9am.
- **The Dr Dennis Irvine Lecture:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 at

the Knutsford Hotel, 16 Chelsea Avenue, Kingston 5, at 5:30pm.

- **The 30th Anniversary Awards Luncheon:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Spanish Court Hotel, Valencia Suites, 6 Worthington Avenue, Kingston 5, starting at 12 noon. Contribution: \$7,500.00

Mrs Althea Heron, Executive Director, the UCJ, explained that "the theme for the month highlights the UCJ's contribution to nation building through its role as the National External Quality Assurance Agency for higher education, since its inception on October 1, 1987." She added, "the anniversary celebration will be used as an opportunity to highlight the UCJ's achievements and its continuous journey toward achieving greater effectiveness

and efficiency within the higher education sector."

During the Anniversary Awards Luncheon, the UCJ will present certificates of Registration and Accreditation to recently registered institutions and those with programmes that have been accredited or re-accredited during the period March 2016-September 2017.



Staff and volunteers who have made significant contributions to the Agency will also be recognised at the luncheon.

## UCJ SUPPORTS TEACHERS' COLLEGES OF JAMAICA WORKSHOP

Mrs Althea Heron, Executive Director, the UCJ, delivered greetings at the opening of the two-day Teachers' Colleges of Jamaica annual professional development workshop that was held under the theme: "Teacher Education in Transition: The New Teacher Educator," at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston from August 29-30, 2017.

Addressing participants from across the island, Mrs Heron said: "I am particularly pleased to be here as the UCJ is committed to strengthening relations with our stakeholders as we continue to assure quality in higher education

and work with institutions to develop their Internal Quality Assurance systems."

Mrs Heron stressed that... "The new teacher educator will not only need to be tech savvy and up-to-date with the latest apps but also be mindful of their own need for continuous professional development, in order to maintain a high standard of teaching and improved student learning outcomes.

"The UCJ is currently revising its Standards for Teacher Education to reflect many of the changes taking place. The Standards will continue

to serve as a guide to institutions in the development of teacher education programmes at the Bachelor's degree level, delivered face-to-face or via distance learning modes of instruction," according to Mrs Heron.

"Teachers are a crucial part of the Jamaican workforce and continue to be central to the training and education of the wider workforce", Mrs Heron said.

The revised Standards for Teacher Education should be available in October this year.

## “PROGRAMMES UNDER REVIEW” PUBLISHED BY THE UCJ FOR THE FIRST TIME

The UCJ has included the list of “programmes under review” among the published list of accredited programmes for the first time in its 30th year of operation.

The “programmes under review” for each institution are documented at the end of the list of the accredited programmes for the institution. The “programmes under review” are listed according to the step they are at in the accreditation process.

Accreditation is a two part process with 10 steps: Part 1, Registration, which includes steps 1-5, and Part 2, Accreditation, steps 6-10. The ten step process is accessible via the UCJ’s website at [www.ucj.org.jm](http://www.ucj.org.jm).

## THE UCJ SUPPORTS MIND PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The UCJ hosted a booth at the Management Institute for National Development (MIND), Regional Public Sector Leadership Development Conference, held from July 19-20, 2017, at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston.

The conference themed, “Adaptive Public Sector Leadership: Changing Mindsets, Challenging Assumptions, Creating Transformation” sought to provide a forum for regional public sector institutions to begin to respond to the mechanics of modernisation and transformation, and the complex challenges posed by these issues.

The two-day conference also included the ‘Public Life Award’ Luncheon for Leadership Excellence that honoured outstanding public sector leaders throughout the Caribbean region.

Ms Jermaine Jewel Jean-Pierre, Director, Information

and Communication Technology Unit, Government Headquarters, Rosseau, Dominica; and Mr Devon Rowe, Executive Director, Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD) were the recipients of this award.

The UCJ used the conference as an opportunity to promote its role as the National External Quality Assurance Agency for higher education in Jamaica. The team also received positive feedback on the UCJ’s redesigned website ([www.ucj.org.jm](http://www.ucj.org.jm)) from participants attending the conference.



Ms Thelma Mollison (right), Customer Service Representative, the UCJ, hands out brochures to a participant who visited the UCJ’s booth during the conference.

## UCJ REPRESENTED AT CHEA SUMMER WORKSHOP IN WASHINGTON DC

The UCJ was represented at the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Summer Workshop themed, “Perspectives on Accreditation” held at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington DC on June 26-27, 2017.

The workshop brought together a wide cross-section of stakeholders involved in Higher Education (HE) and quality assurance. Participants included Members of the US House of Representatives, international and US External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAAs), heads of HE institutions, policymakers in HE and workforce development; media representatives and political commentators.

The workshop tackled a number of controversial issues in HE, with a central focus on the changing political

landscape in the US Government and its impact on both HE and accreditation. A number of presentations were made during the workshop, exploring the future of accreditation, next-generation innovation in HE, accreditation reform and their impact on programmes and institutions.



Dr Jessica Dunn, Accreditation Officer, the UCJ (second from left) with Dr Iva Dahl, Executive Director, the National Accreditation and Equivalency Council of the Bahamas, NAECOB (left) and Dr Juliett Reid, Senior Accreditation Officer at the CHEA workshop.

## UCJ EMBARKS ON A PROGRAMME TO ACHIEVE ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFICATION BY 2018

The UCJ has embarked on a programme to achieve ISO 9001:2015 Certification. The mandate to achieve International Certification was a charge from the Council in July 2016.

All staff at the UCJ have undergone training in preparation for achieving ISO certification. Staff who sat the ISO 9001:2015 Internal Audit examination, at the Bureau



of Standards Jamaica (BSJ), on April 12, 2017, were delighted to hear that all the participants had been successful in the examination.

The optional examination was sat at the end of two days of training at the BSJ's Training Unit, from April 11-12, 2017. Staff were presented with their 'Certificates of Achievement' in July from the BSJ.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXTENDS CONGRATULATORY TRIBUTE TO 24TH PRESIDENT, NCU

Mrs Althea Heron, Executive Director, UCJ, participated in the Installation Ceremony for Dr Lincoln Edwards, the 24th President of the Northern Caribbean University, at the NCU Gymnasium, main campus, Mandeville on Monday, June 19, 2017.

Mrs Heron delivered a congratulatory tribute on behalf of the UCJ. She said: "The UCJ has had a long association with the NCU and several of its past presidents and faculty have served in different capacities including as Council members, and on the executive committee of the Joint Committee for Tertiary Education (JCTE). The NCU has also been instrumental in supporting the UCJ in developing a quality culture that drives efficiency and supports the development of the nation's human capital. We know

that this long association will continue to be fruitful under Dr Edwards' leadership..."

The installation ceremony was also attended by Dr Carolyn Hayle, Chairman of the UCJ, and other distinguished guests including guest speaker, Dr Guiseppe N. Colasurdo, MD, President of the University of Texas Health Science Centre at Houston and Mr Dean-Roy Bernard, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAKES PRESENTATION AT UWI SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BREAKFAST MEETING

Mrs Althea Heron, Executive Director, the UCJ, and Dr Angela Penny, Director, Research and Development, represented the UCJ at the University of the West Indies (UWI) School of Education Breakfast meeting, held on May 19, 2017 at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference Centre in Kingston.

Mrs Heron made a presentation on the UCJ's Bachelor of Education Standards at the meeting that was organised to brief stakeholders on some significant changes that will occur in the placement of student-teachers (from the School of Education) at the start of the 2017- 2018 academic year. In addition, plans were announced for the professional development and recognition of teachers.



Senator the Hon. Ruel Reid, Minister of Education, Youth and Information, greets Mrs Heron, Executive Director, the UCJ at the UWI School of Education Breakfast meeting.

## THE UCJ SUPPORTS MEADOWBROOK HIGH SCHOOL CAREER EXPO



Ms Ollyvia Anderson, Public Relations and Communications Officer, the UCJ, with students at the Meadowbrook High School Career Expo.

The UCJ hosted a booth at the Meadowbrook High School Career Expo on Thursday, April 26, 2017. The expo, themed “Thinking out of the box, new territories”, sought to provide opportunities for students (grades 7-10), and parents to gain knowledge on career related matters.

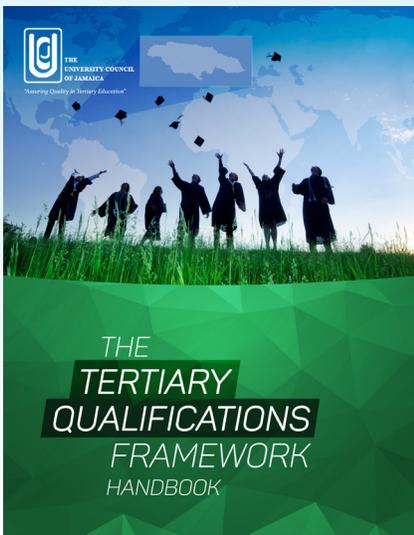
Miss Ollyvia Anderson, Public Relations and Communications Officer and Ms Thelma Mollison, Customer Service Representative were on hand to provide answers to questions about the UCJ’s services, showcase the UCJ’s website and distribute brochures and other marketing literature.

## TQF TO BE LAUNCHED DURING THE UCJ’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The UCJ will launch its Tertiary Qualifications Framework (TQF) in October 2017 during its 30th Anniversary celebration.

The TQF is a classification system and policy framework for all nationally recognised qualifications at the post secondary and tertiary levels. First published in 2003, the TQF is a tool used by the UCJ in carrying out its quality assurance activities – including registration, accreditation, credential assessment, recognition and equivalency.

The TQF provides detailed descriptions of the qualifications comprising the tertiary component of the National Qualifications Framework of Jamaica (NQF-J). This includes information on qualification



level, workload profile, credit rating, entry requirements and learning outcomes.

In addition to typical programme characteristics at the tertiary level, the TQF Handbook provides general information on standards of good practice for academic programme management including those relating to the entry requirements, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), credit rating systems, the award and transfer of credits, Grade Point Average (GPA) among others. An internal review of the TQF was conducted by the UCJ technical team

between April 2016 and April 2017. This review was also facilitated by the research and input of the UCJ’s Technical Advisory Committee during the same period. The TQF Handbook will be used by the UCJ’s various stakeholder groups.

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