



Repositioning The UWI for 2030

The UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles recently congratulated his strategy and leadership group for successfully guiding the University through the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. He called upon the region to recognise the excellent work done by the team on all campuses across the region in transitioning the University to full online, remote teaching and management, enabling students to progress through their programmes of study.

He indicated, however, that the time is right to return the gaze to addressing the most important matter of repositioning the University to be globally competitive, and financially sustainable in its journey to 2025-2030. Only a reengineered UWI, he said, will be able to deliver even more effectively upon the region's development agenda.

The post-COVID university will therefore be a very different kind of academy, he said, fully embracing the communications and production technology in order to be more agile in capturing opportunities to enhance its financial health while promoting the diversity of development discourses in the region.

Addressing colleagues gathered at a Strategic Planning Retreat hosted in November, the Vice-Chancellor outlined the very significant steps already taken in this regard:

1. significant cuts in budgetary expenditure for the 2020-2021 year with more to come in 2021-2022;
2. fostering of intimate partnership relationships with the major international donors in order to facilitate research and advocacy around the development agenda of the region;
3. building bonds of engagement with critical multi-lateral organisations in order to create new and innovative clusters of activity in areas of urgent regional needs such as climate change, digital transformation, innovation studies, public health management, food security, financial services and tourism enhancement, social justice for democratic advancement, and production technology development;

4. facilitating industry-academic partnerships to drive the process of regional economic diversification and competitiveness;

5. being the global eyes and ears of the Caribbean.

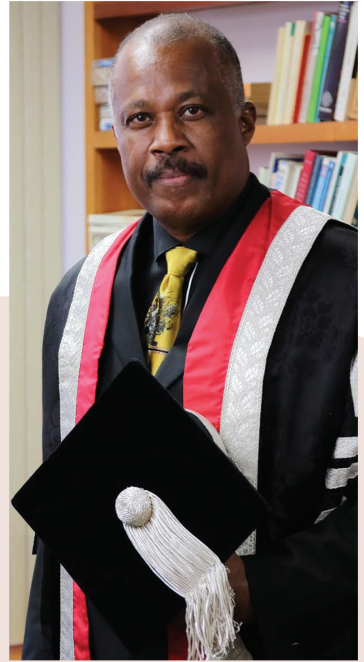
The Vice-Chancellor spoke also about the equally important advancements by the University to contribute to the economic transformation process in Guyana and Suriname.

Cross referencing his stimulating conversation with President Irfan Ali of Guyana to the south he noted that President Elect Biden of the USA to the north had written indicating his respect for the work and reputation of The UWI. Both engagements, the Vice-Chancellor stated, have been particularly encouraging at this critical time in repositioning the University for the 2025-2030 period.

The University, he added further, has effectively built and internationalised its identity as a global leader and the time is ripe to convert its reputation into revenue. The University is advanced in its preparations to enter the regional capital market with a number of bankable projects, an indication of its readiness to be entrepreneurial at a significant level.

Beyond the region, The UWI is also preparing to transform its online academic capacity into a global strategy by rolling out another stage in the development of the Open Campus. The evolving UWI Global Online is expected to go live before the University approaches its 75th anniversary in 2023.

The reputation of The UWI has never been higher, reiterated Vice-Chancellor Beckles. Working in partnership with some of the finest international universities on all continents the expectation is that The UWI will be well repositioned to preserve its regional and global elite rankings while restructuring its economic infrastructure. The leadership energy and management effort that led to its successful reputation revolution will now be honed and directed to achieve similar business results.



Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor, The UWI.

“No retreat at UWI” - Sir Hilary

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has continued to thrive and advance new strategies for its future. Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of the regional university, credits this success to its staff who are not just “fine and bright, but caring, committed and courageous.”

On November 19, The UWI honoured twelve outstanding academics, senior administrative staff and units at its annual Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. The prestigious awards ceremony pivoted to a completely virtual event this year, leveraging the technology of UWI tv to deliver an interactive ceremony that streamed celebrations from the awardees' homes, and was hosted by Dr. Maurice D. Smith, University Registrar.

Addressing the award recipients and virtual audience, Vice-Chancellor Beckles noted “This year we have been tested by COVID-19. We have experienced death, destruction, pain and suffering. But at The UWI there has been no retreat or lack of confidence. It is because we care, because we are committed and we are courageous. And we are not looking back. We have seen in all of the COVID darkness, the light to the future. Each honoree is a torch bearer, a keeper of the light, a beacon to our better future.”

The complete list of Vice-Chancellor's Awardees for Excellence 2019/2020 celebrated included:



Awardees Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee (left) and Professor Paulette Ramsay (right) with University Registrar Dr. Maurice Smith (2nd left) and Pro Vice-Chancellor & UWI Mona Principal, Professor Dale Webber.

Teaching

Dr Delroy Chevers, Mona School of Business and Management, Mona Campus

Dr Chris Maharaj, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, St. Augustine Campus

Research Accomplishments

Professor Paulette Ramsay, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Mona Campus

Professor Alina Kaczorowska-Ireland, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus

Service to the University Community

Dr Kimberly Robinson-Walcott, Caribbean Quarterly, Vice-Chancellery

Contribution to Public Service

Dr Olivene Burke, Mona Social Services, Mona Campus

Professor Charles Grant, International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences, Mona Campus

Dr Floyd Morris, Centre for Disability Studies, Mona Campus

All-round Excellence Award in two or more areas

Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, Mona Campus

Professor Michelle Mycoo, Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management, St. Augustine Campus

International Collaboration (Globalisation Award)

UWI tv

Multi Campus Research Collaboration (One UWI Award)

The Early Childhood Quality Initiative Project



PVC Professor Densil Williams (2nd left), Principal UWI Five Islands Antigua and Mrs Andrea McNish (right), University Bursar with awardees Dr Floyd Morris (left) and Dr Delroy Chevers



Awardee Professor Charles Grant (left); Dr Donovan Stanberry (centre), Campus Registrar and Dr Michael Bucknor, Public Orator, UWI Mona Campus.



Dr Luz Longworth (left), Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal, UWI Open Campus with awardees (1-r) Dr Olivene Burke; Dr Zoyah Kinkead-Clark and Dr Kimberly Robinson-Walcott