

PRESS RELEASE

Workshop on Preparing for Accreditation

The Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC) will be hosting a workshop on **Preparing for Accreditation** on **November 8 & 9, 2011 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Bridgetown, Hastings, Christ Church**, and the **Opening Remarks** will be delivered by Ms Yvonne Walkes, Chairman of the Council.

The two-day workshop is targeting post-secondary/tertiary educational providers that will be seeking accreditation from the Barbados Accreditation Council.

The training objectives are to:

- (a) assist educational providers as they strive towards an evocative self-evaluation and on-site evaluation experience;
- (b) provide an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the Council's accreditation standards and procedures;
- (c) orient participants to the philosophy that underpins accreditation;
- (d) equip participants with the skills and expertise to undertake the accreditation process effectively e.g. assist participants with interpreting the accreditation standards for use in conducting the self-evaluation and preparing the written documentation; successfully prepare a Self-Evaluation Report; and
- (e) provide an environment for educational providers to network and share experiences with other educational providers that will be pursuing accreditation.

The registration deadline for the workshop is **Monday, October 24, 2011**.

Why is accreditation important?

- Accreditation seeks to assure quality education
- Accreditation creates the impetus for relevancy and currency of faculty, programmes, and courses to best serve students.
- The pursuit of accreditation enhances the ability to serve students by assuring a focus on quality performance.

Why should educational providers seek accreditation?

When an educational provider seeks accreditation with the Council, this signals: (i) its commitment to quality, and (ii) its accountability to students, society and the educational environment. Educational providers that achieve accredited status will enjoy many benefits including:

1. Validation/acceptance of diplomas, certificates and degrees by other accredited schools, universities and the business sector;
2. National, Regional and International recognition of quality, accountability, and public trust;
3. Validation of quality could be used as a marketing tool to increase student numbers;

4. Acknowledgement of the quality of the educational provision offered by an educational provider;
5. Expansion of educational and learning opportunities for students by being part of a national network or quality educational institutions;
6. Access to support services by the Council designed to continually improve the quality of education and training.
7. Continuous improvement process that increases the focus on student performance.

Registration forms for the workshop can be collected at the Council's Secretariat at #123 A&B, "Plaza Centrale", Roebuck Street, St. Michael BB11080 or downloaded from the website at www.bac.gov.bb. For more information, please contact the Council at 436-9094 or via email at info@bac.gov.bb.

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