

CXC Press Release

Date: March 16th, 2005

Priority: For Immediate Release

Subject: CXC Launches Associate Degrees

The Caribbean Examinations Council launched its Associate Degree Programmes on Monday March 14th at a press conference jointly hosted by the Barbados Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports at the Savannah Hotel.

The Council is offering Associate Degrees in nine areas; Business Studies, Computer Science, Environmental Science, General Studies, Humanities, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Natural Sciences and Technical Studies.

CXC Registrar, Dr Lucy Steward announced that in order to qualify for an Associate Degree, candidates will be required to obtain Grades I to V in a minimum of seven CAPE Units, of which Caribbean Studies and Communications Studies are compulsory Units.

Levels of performance in the Associate Degree Programmes will be indicated by a Grade Point Average system where Grade I is equivalent to a 4.0 GPA and Grade V is equivalent to a 2.0 GPA.

CXC Chairman, Professor the Honourable Kenneth Hall said the Council agreed at its annual meeting in Antigua last December to award Associate Degrees. "In doing so, it took account of the radical changes that are occurring in the education arena," he stated.

Professor Hall asserted that the region has to find creative ways of extending access to quality education and the CXC Associate Degree is a direct response to this need.

The CXC Chairman noted that this is an era "where there is a need for portable qualification as graduates are now even less likely to be limited to their national space."

"As we implement the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), the need for clear linkages between programmes at different levels is even greater as our people move freely in an effort to better themselves and to strengthen the economies of our small island states," Permanent Secretary in the Barbados Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Mrs Atheline Haynes explained.

According to the Permanent Secretary, the introduction of CXC Associate Degrees is an opportunity for regional educational institutions to collaborate. "It provides an opportunity for all institutions and awarding bodies to work together to achieve a well-articulated system for tertiary education," Mrs Haynes said.

Dr Steward said the CXC Associate Degrees “must not be seen as competition with any existing programme, but must be viewed as complementing in order to allow more persons to access tertiary-level education.”

Typically, candidates will complete the CXC Associate Degree in two years; however, the programme offers the flexibility for mature and out-of-school candidates to complete the seven Units required for the Associate Degree over a maximum period of five years.

The first CXC Associate Degrees will be awarded in 2006.

For additional information, please contact Cleveland Sam, CXC Public Information Officer at telephone number (246) 436 6261 or via email at CSam@cx.org.

See details in the Associate Degree Handbook which may downloaded and printed.

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