



Ministerial Statement

To The House of Assembly

By

The Hon. Diallo V. Rabain JP, MP

Minister of Education

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University of the West Indies Interactive Virtual Open House

Friday, June 18th, 2021

Mr Speaker,

I would like to update my honourable colleagues about yet another exciting educational opportunity for the people of Bermuda. Today, I am pleased to announce yet another initiative to promote the relationship between the Bermuda Government and the University of the West Indies.

Mr Speaker,

By way of some background, The University of the West Indies was founded in 1948 and is the largest and longest standing higher education provider in the English-speaking Caribbean. Currently, UWI is ranked in the top 4% of Universities in the world.

Mr Speaker

Bermuda and the University of West Indies have developed a long standing relationship, as we have benefited from being an Associate Country member of UWI since 2010. As an Associate Country member Bermudian Students can enjoy, and greatly benefit from the preferred tuition pricing that this relationship offers. Currently in the works is a MOU and articulation agreement between the Bermuda College and the University of West Indies. An agreement that will allow credits earned at Bermuda College to be transferred directly towards a degree program in the UWI Open Campus.

Mr Speaker

We understand that going to University can be a large financial commitment, however the Bermuda Government is dedicated to fostering opportunities that allow our students to pursue their educational goals. Our commitment to providing opportunities to all Bermudians has been very consistent and clear. This government has always tried to reduce the financial hurdles preventing anyone from pursuing their educational dreams. With that in mind, we strongly encourage more Bermudians to take advantage of the preferred tuition pricing available through our relationship with the UWI so that they can follow their dreams and positively contribute to our island home.

Mr Speaker

As we continue to grow, foster and renew the existing relationship between Bermuda and the University of West Indies, we are excited to offer Bermudians the opportunity to learn more about UWI through a Live and Interactive Virtual Open House on June 24th from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We welcome high school graduates, and their parents, college graduates, as well as mature students who are looking to continue their studies or change careers to attend this virtual open house. This Virtual open house will give prospective students an opportunity to learn mostly about the Open Campus, which covers the distance learning programs of the University of the West Indies.

Mr Speaker

The session will feature information on:

- The UWI's 800+ Certificate, Diploma, Undergraduate, and Post Graduate Degree Options
- On-Campus and Online Learning Facilities
- Application Process
- Student Support Services

There will also be a portion of the evening dedicated to answering participants' questions.

Mr Speaker

I am thrilled to share that for those who register in advance and attend the Virtual Open House, they will be entered into a draw to receive a one of four one-time Tuition Awards valued at \$2,500 each when they enroll in UWI Open Campus, which facilitates online learning. To register visit http://bit.ly/UWI_Bermuda or email askus@gov.bm for the link.

Mr Speaker,

The open house will be livestreamed via Zoom and will be simulcast on CITV, the Government of Bermuda's Facebook page, and YouTube. Bermuda, we strongly encourage you to attend this open house to learn more about the UWI.

Mr Speaker,

As [previously mentioned, The University of West Indies is currently ranked in the top 4% of Universities in the world. We are encouraging Bermudians, looking to pursue further education, to consider UWI as a viable option. There are many opportunities available to Bermudians seeking higher education and UWI is one of them. We assure you that the Ministry of Education remains dedicated to creating new opportunities for our students to pursue their educational goals. This means thinking outside the box and revisiting pre-existing relationships to make them more applicable to our needs today.

Mr Speaker,

So to those who are about to graduate from high school, those who have graduated from high school and seek higher education, those who have their undergraduate certification but want to pursue their graduate certification, and those who are considering changing careers, please take advantage of the amazing opportunities offered through our partnership with the University of West Indies. Tune in next week Thursday to learn more about the University and 800+ online offerings the University has to offer.

Thank You

Mr Speaker