

# Press release



MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION, TRAINING,  
& EMPLOYMENT  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Inaugural class of Passport 2 Success programme graduates with pride**

The first 22 students in the Ministry of Education's "Passport2Success" programme graduated on 2 July, completing an 11-week course sponsored by LIME, Butterfield, and CML Offshore Recruitment.

Premier McKeeva Bush; Minister of Education Rolston Anglin and the ministry's Chief Officer Mary Rodrigues, accompanied by programme coordinator and director of the Wellness Centre Shannon Seymour and programme facilitator and instructor Lynne Banker attended the noon commencement ceremony at Casanova's Restaurant on the George Town waterfront.

"We are pleased and proud of our 22 graduates in this pioneer class," Minister Anglin said. "They did terrific work, demonstrated the value of hard work and team effort, and have pointed the way to the future success of the Passport programme."

Developed by the ministry in cooperation with the Wellness Centre, the full-time Passport2Success effort selected applicants from across the community with a demonstrated commitment to improving their professional skills. The curriculum, starting on 12 April at the International College of the Cayman Islands, provided job training, work experience, exposure to real-time employers, career guidance and a modest monthly stipend.

The programme will operate four times each year, training graduates in workplace skills, communications, problem solving, teamwork, job-searching skills, resume writing and interviewing skills. There is also a personal assessment and community service component, so that the entire programme is designed for ultimately creating a young workforce geared towards professional entry-level positions.

**LIME**

**cml**

  
Butterfield



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“It’s an innovative and exciting programme that offers future students a range of attractive opportunities,” Ms Rodrigues said. “It is an efficient way to address several challenges at the same time, and provides aspiring young Caymanians a chance to compete in a professional environment.”

“We are overwhelmed by the students’ eager embrace of the opportunity to improve their own skills and knowledge, as well as blazing a path for those still to come,” Ms Seymour said. She thanked the programme’s corporate sponsors, with an additional nod to Kirk Freeport and Island Companies who provided prizes and gifts for the participants.

As of today, she said, 10 of the 22 graduates have found employment: three with Butterfield, two with LIME and one each with the Water Authority, Fabrizonne Cleaning Systems, Kirk Freeport, Phoenix Construction and Cayman Business Machines.

“In Passport2Success I learned that to change myself I first had to know what I wanted to accomplish in life,” said Michelle Johnson, winner of the programme’s Most Improved Overall award. “Growing up, I had few struggles, no bills to pay and no stress. My attitude was that I didn’t care because I already knew it all.

“When I was accepted for the programme, I had a chance to make a change for myself -- and for other young Caymanians. Now I have realised that everything is up to me, and that if I don’t put in 100 percent, I have no one to blame but myself. My past does not define my future. I have to work for what I want,” she said.

To apply for a place on future Passport2Success programmes applicants must fill in and submit a registration form. Forms may be requested from the Wellness Centre by emailing [info@wellnesscentre.ky](mailto:info@wellnesscentre.ky), by calling 949-9355. or by visiting the programme website, [www.passport2success.ky](http://www.passport2success.ky).

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