



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: Thursday, 20 January 2011

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Passport2Success: Round Three

What am I doing? Where is my life going? Where do I want it to go? These are questions Passport2Success Facilitator Shannon Seymour encouraged the 25 youngsters participating in the programme's third training group to ask themselves.

Nervous but expectant the youngsters, ranging from 16 to 18 years, were eager to start on their 12-week journey to employability after hearing past participants' commendations and witnessing changes in their friends.

Seventeen-year-old Latoya Dixon, who wants to be a medical assistant or administrator, says her number one objective is to find a job.

"I think the programme will help me to be more outgoing and will improve my writing and communication skills. The two-week job experience at the end is especially attractive."

Another participant, Kizzie Codlyn, also 17, hopes the programme will help her acquire some of the skills she needs to pursue her dream career in criminology.

"I'm inspired by TV programmes and my Aunt Pearl who's a police officer," she explained. "I'm good with my hands so I need that kind of involvement or interactive studies."

Luckily for her, the programme is designed with plenty of that in mind. At first, participants will be introduced to the Labour Law, employment contracts and acceptable business practices.

They'll practise grammatical skills, learn about communication styles, body language, and barriers to communication. But halfway through, they'll complete community service projects and résumés, in preparation for work placement during the final two weeks.

Protocol, basic business etiquette, time management, conflict avoidance skills and motivational talks from leading business figures will also fill the agenda.

Commenting on the programme's growth Mrs. Seymour said, "It remains essentially the same because it's proven effective and successful. The only change is that we now

have two full-time staff members – one of whom is male – with counselling and mentoring backgrounds.”

She added, “There are so many social and sometimes psychological undercurrents to address that we thought persons with counselling experience would be beneficial.”

The new facilitators are Dr. Tasha Ebanks-Garcia, a psychologist specialising in marriage and family counselling and Phillip Wilson, a licensed addiction counsellor with 20 years youth mentorship to his credit.

Education, Training and Employment Minister, the Hon. Rolston Anglin, JP who visited during orientation, encouraged participants to persevere through the programme.

Delivering a short pep-talk he said, “At the end of the day, achieving success is about two things – attitude and hard work. You might have two equally talented individuals but the one with the best attitude will almost always excel.

“The most difficult things to change are the world and other people; it’s much easier to change yourself.”

The National Employment Passport2Success Programme is a Ministry of Education training initiative which runs four times yearly. Sponsored by Butterfield Group, CML Offshore Recruitment and LIME, the 12-week, full-time employment preparedness course is designed to enhance workplace readiness skills for 16 to 19-year-old underachieving school leavers.

For more information or application forms, visit www.passport2success.ky, email info@wellnesscentre.ky or passport2successcayman@gmail.com, or call 949-9355.

(GIS)

Photo caption: Photo by Information Officer Kenisha Morgan.

1. Education, Training & Employment Minister the Hon. Rolston Anglin, JP, addressing participants in the third round of the Passport2Success Programme. Looking on (far right) is Facilitator Dr. Tasha Ebanks-Garcia

For the official Cayman Islands Government web portal, www.gov.ky:

Web title: Third Time Around

Web blurb: The Education Ministry launches its third Passport2Success group.