



**GIS MARKETING &  
COMMUNICATIONS**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Passport2Success Continues to Deliver Results

Graduations bring elation and a sense of accomplishment. For the students in the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort of the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment initiative Passport2Success, there was pride and achievement on their faces as they celebrated completing the programme.

Students, proud parents, Ministry officials, and private and public sector individuals involved in the programme were present at the Wharf Restaurant on Monday, 5 December 2011 to watch as the 5<sup>th</sup> cohort students received their “Passports to Success”.

Statistics shared at the event indicate that the programme continues to deliver impressive results:

- 124 young people (90%) have successfully completed the programme, since it started in 2010
- 58% have been employed within six months of graduation
- 18% are currently attending school.

Ms Shannon Seymour of the Wellness Centre opened the ceremony by congratulating the students, saying: “The 5<sup>th</sup> cohort group was able to accomplish several goals, including some of the students being able to gain full time employment with the supporting companies involved. We are most proud of everyone who succeeded in this programme!”

Ms Seymour conveyed her appreciation to the community, parents of graduates, and the public and private sector for coming on board and making the programme a revolutionary

step in the educational development of the youth of the Cayman Islands, and an important second chance for success.

Mrs. Mary Rodrigues, Chief Officer of the Ministry of Education, was in attendance to congratulate all of the graduates for completing what she acknowledged was a challenging programme. “The programme makes demands on your time, it forces you to take an honest look at where you are and what you have done to date. It also asks you to change your level of preparation and approach to getting and holding onto a job, and most difficult of all, to change your attitudes,” she said.

Ms Rodrigues told the young people that the ministry’s support for them would not end with the graduation. Graduates from the programme can get grants to continue their studies and can be referred for future employment opportunities. The Ministry has also engaged the Wellness Centre to keep in touch with the graduates, to monitor their progress and to support and encourage them.

Attendees learned that applications are now being processed for two new Passport2Success programmes, which will start in January, 2012. These will target unemployed young men aged 20-25 and young mothers.

For more information in regards to Passport2Success as well as application forms and dates in regards to the start of the next programme, visit [www.passport2success.ky](http://www.passport2success.ky)

**(GIS)**

**Sidebar: Passport2Success Programme**

The National Employment Passport2Success Programme is a Ministry of Education, Training and Employment initiative. The employment preparedness course is a well

developed 12 week programme that is designed to enhance workplace readiness skills for 17 to 20-year-old Caymanians who want to increase their employability. New programmes for two different target groups will begin in January 2012. The programme is sponsored by Butterfield Group, CML Offshore Recruitment and LIME.

Each of the students attending the course receives practical hands-on training, work experience, occupational, personal and job-specific skills, a chance to impress potential employers, and a monthly stipend (pay) with potential performance related bonuses. Passport2Success allows students to customise their programme by choosing from a variety of activities and training modules.

*Source: Ministry of Education, Training and Employment*

**Photo captions** *Photo by Information Officer Kristi Anderson*

1. Group photo of all graduates in Passport2Success's 5<sup>th</sup> cohort and support staff, including Mrs. Rodrigues, Chief Officer in the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment.
2. Student Christopher Myles receives diploma from Chief Officer Mrs. Rodrigues

**For the official Cayman Islands Government web portal, [www.gov.ky](http://www.gov.ky):**

Web title: Passport2Success 5th Cohort Graduate

Web blurb: The largest group of students celebrate completing the programme.