



**GIS MARKETING &  
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CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Passport Programme Focusing on Males**

Twenty men aged 21-25 years, attended the Passport2Success (P2S) orientation at the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI) on 13 February.

Run by the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment, the 20- week course aims to instil employability skills and keys to workplace success in participants. They also take part in workplace apprenticeships. This is the first time that the programme has targeted unemployed men who are more than a few years out of high school.

Speaking at the orientation, Chief Officer in the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment, Mrs. Mary Rodrigues, said: "First and foremost, this programme is going to challenge you. In particular it will help you address the issues that you have been facing, and which continue to hold you back."

"Don't limit yourselves in anyway, but understand that there are starting points for us all. We believe that you will become persons that businesses will want to employ," Mrs. Rodrigues continued.

P2S Coordinator, Mrs. Shannon Seymour of the Wellness Centre, explained that the expansion of the programme to meet the needs of older males is both a challenge and an incredible opportunity.

"The longer an individual is unsuccessful in the workforce, the more difficult successful re-entry becomes," she said. "Some of our participants have experienced multiple employment failures, so supporting and preparing them to be successful is a challenge we look forward to overcoming together."

Mrs. Seymour added that this also presents the opportunity to address a significant social issue: generational unemployment. She added, “Any time we can enable men and especially fathers to take up positive roles in our community, great things can happen.”

The men’s cohort is currently in their fourth week of the programme where they have been applying for internships and have been engaged in interviews. They are expected to begin their internships on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

For more information about Passport2Success, as well as application forms visit [www.passport2success.ky](http://www.passport2success.ky).

**(GIS)**

**Photo caption:** *Photo by Information Officer Kristi Anderson*

Chief Officer Mary Rodrigues, Deputy Chief Officer Christen Suckoo, Dr. Tasha Ebanks-Garcia and Mr. Hylton Grace, Passport2Success Coordinators with the new male cohort

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

Web title: Men Get Their Chance

Web blurb: The Passsport2Success programme welcomes its first adult male cohort.