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THE PHOENIX GROUP SUPPORTS PASSPORT2SUCCESS PROGRAMME



Managing Director Shayne Howe explains the variety of career choices that can be available through further education or trades training in a dynamic design/build collaboration like the Phoenix Group.

The National Employment Passport Program, called Passport2Success, is a new initiative funded by the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment. It is a full time, 11 week programme that teaches participants essential personal and career skills, gives them valuable work experience and better prepares them for the working world. The Programme is for recent school leavers and young Caymanians who are struggling to find employment because they lack basic skills.

Local research has shown that too many of our high school graduates in the Cayman Islands do not meet expectations in regards to literacy, effective communication, problem solving and working in teams. Increasingly, entry level positions in the workforce require higher levels of education. Passport2Success helps young Caymanians improve their skills and increase the likelihood of succeeding in the work place.

Recognizing the need for the business community to throw its full weight behind these types of programmes at such a critical time for Cayman's youth, the management team of The Phoenix Group welcomed a curious group of 15 recent school graduates for a look behind the scenes at one of Cayman's most innovative companies. "We had no idea that Phoenix was so many different companies doing so many interesting things" said attendee Amadello Mena-Hebbert, who was attending from Cayman Brac. "We had all just thought they were just a construction company" he added. For this young aspiring designer it was great to see how designers and builders work together, as he and the group also had a chance to spend some quality time with the Group's Chief Architect, Tami Scott, of Icon Architecture.

Lynne Banker, a key collaborator on the programme's design, led the two hour expedition for Passport2Success. She was delighted with the visit and the reaction of the young attendees. "They were surprised by the variety of positions and departments that comprise Phoenix Construction. The visit to an

active construction site was a first for all of us” she said. “There certainly has been more interest now for work placement with the Phoenix Group”, she added.

For young Amadello these visits, which for him have included detailed tours of the Ritz Carlton, Red Sail Sports and Butterfield Bank, are critical for young people like him recently out of school and spinning their wheels. “A lot of these people are confused and uninformed about what their options are in life” he said. “The high school experience does not give you a good look at the working world out there as programmes like this do” he said. “I wish we had this sort of exposure earlier, when we could have used it to make some decisions about the future”

Barbara Anley, General Manager for Phoenix, stated that “having attended the Introductory Seminar for this programme on April 8th, it was readily apparent that a great deal of effort was put into the planning and organizing of this initiative to make it as successful as possible. The information given about the programme and the passion the organizers had shown in getting it off the ground was unmistakable.” Miss Anley felt this was an excellent step forward to enable entry level workers to become better prepared to join the workforce. The two week job placements for participants will also help give entry-level applicants a better understanding of the day to day responsibilities associated with their industry of choice. As this programme is open to all industries, she encourages many more local business owners and managers to get on board to assist our young people to find and keep employment.



Tami Scott of Icon Architecture fields questions from the group

The Passport2Success programme is full time, 5 days a week, from 8:30am to 4pm, and is based at the International College of the Cayman Islands (ICCI), Savannah Newlands

The programme is 11 weeks long, 2 weeks of which will be work placement. There are 4 programmes a year. The programme launched on 19th April, 2010. There are 25 available spaces for the next programme.