

**Statement to the Legislative Assembly**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 2012/2013**

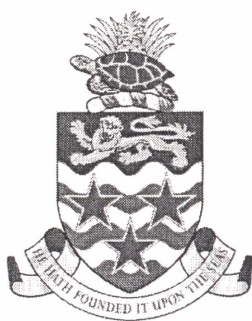
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**By the Honourable Rolston Anglin, JP**

**Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment**

***Teach Cayman – Education Programmes***

**15 March 2013**



**MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION, FINANCIAL SERVICES  
& EMPLOYMENT**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Madam Speaker, Teach Cayman is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, Training and Employment that focuses on the development of new teachers as outlined in the National Strategic Plan for Education, 2012 – 2017.

Research shows that an inspiring and informed teacher is the most important school-related factor influencing students' achievement. High quality teaching enables our young people to learn effectively and achieve their potential.

Simply put, great teachers help to create great students. As we seek to prepare our young people to be globally competitive, it is not enough to have teachers who have a passion and love for teaching. This desire must, and I stress must, be coupled with knowledge of subject areas, specific learning strategies and teachers' willingness to extend their own repertoire through on-going professional development.

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that we have teachers in our system who can help our young people to be literate and numerate, and to analyse and understand different cultures. We want teachers who can facilitate learning so that our students have the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, to solve problems by forming and testing hypotheses, to work well with persons from different backgrounds and to keep learning and become lifelong learners.

Madam Speaker, we must recognise that our young people will live, work and compete in a global economy, and so our goal should be a simple one: to ensure that our teachers can deliver an education that prepares students to graduate ready for college and the careers the global economy offers.

In order to continue to raise standards and have a positive impact on our community it is vital that education system change include improving teaching practices. My many visits to schools has strengthened my belief in the power teachers have in influencing their students' minds and hearts. As part of the Strategic Plan for Education, the Ministry has focused on Initial Teacher Education.

Quality teacher education programmes emphasise subject-matter mastery and provide many opportunities for potential teachers to spend time in classrooms under the supervision of an experienced teacher mentor.

We would like to stretch our potential teachers even further and have therefore worked collaboratively with the University College of the Cayman Islands to begin the development of three exemplary primary teacher-preparation programmes – an Associate Degree in Education, a Bachelor Degree in Education and a Postgraduate Certificate of Education.

The Associate Degree in Education will be a newly developed programme of study that targets potential teachers who want to work as teaching assistants in schools. It will be a two-year programme that provides foundation courses in key content areas as well as core education courses designed to equip potential teachers with the knowledge, skills and competencies to assist classroom teachers in raising standards.

Individuals on this programme will take part in classroom observations and teaching practices that provide authentic experiences in managing classrooms, arranging for learning, and assisting the classroom teacher. The people who complete this programme will be able to facilitate learning for individual and small groups of students. They will have the ability to follow lesson plans and ensure that students continue to learn in the absence of a classroom teacher, for short periods of time.

The Associate Degree is a building block to the Bachelor of Education Programme as individuals who successfully complete the programme can seamlessly progress to the Bachelor of Education Programme, which requires an additional two years of study.

The Bachelor of Education Programme is being redeveloped to include methods courses in literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. It will also provide a range of courses that promote student teachers' awareness of social, cultural and developmental issues of children. The programme will equip potential teachers with the professional skills required to foster positive development and learning in children. The main aim of the Bachelor of Education programme is to provide persons aspiring to a career in teaching in primary schools with the professional training and experience necessary to develop as effective and reflective teachers.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is an intense one-year programme for bachelor degree holders who wish to become teachers. The programme targets individuals who are recent college graduates and those who are seeking a career change. The PGCE focuses on methods courses designed to enhance teaching skills. There is an emphasis on subject knowledge, increased use of educational technologies and innovative training programmes.

Madam Speaker, these programmes will be launched in September of this year (2013). They are being designed to prepare potential teachers with the knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and skills required to perform their tasks effectively in the classroom, school and wider community. They allow potential teachers the time to apply their learning of theory in the context of teaching in a real classroom and to develop their pedagogical skills.

Central to the development of these education programmes are the Cayman Islands National Professional Standards for Teachers. The Teacher Standards set a clear baseline of expectations for the professional practice and conduct of teachers. They are an integral part of the Performance Management System for Teachers and as such are also utilised in teacher education for consistency of good practice.

In addition, to the three education programmes, potential teachers will have an opportunity to focus on many of the STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics) courses that UCCI already offers. Concentrations in these areas will expand potential teachers' knowledge and build a better understanding of methods to support students in their classroom.

Madam Speaker, these teacher education programmes are being designed to create:

1. Teachers who will be strong candidates for employment in public and private schools in the Cayman Islands and internationally,
2. Teachers who will model decision making processes that reflect the Vision, Mission and Values of both the University College of the Cayman Islands and the Ministry of Education,
3. Teachers who will possess the skills and critical understanding of teaching and learning required for students to achieve in the 21st Century,
4. Teachers who will develop a deep pedagogical knowledge and use it to create rich learning experiences that nurture the whole student and use creativity to promote learning,

5. Teachers who will model respect and promote diversity by creating instructional opportunities that meet the needs of every student,
6. Teachers who will promote students' personal, spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development and their sense of social responsibility,
7. Teachers who will foster positive social interaction and collaboration and provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning,
8. Teachers will meet the objectives as outlined in the Cayman Islands National Professional Standards for Teachers and,
9. Teachers who will be life-long learners and inspire students to be creative, inquiring life-long learners.

Madam Speaker, our goal in partnering with UCCI has been to offer high quality educational experiences which prepare our potential teachers to be professional and reflective educators. The three education programmes will provide content specific methods courses connected with required teaching practice. Potential teachers will be teaching and applying specific, focused learning in our local classrooms. We want to ensure that our potential teachers will develop deep subject and pedagogy and use effective instructional practices that result in student learning and achievement in the classroom.

Madam Speaker, Education, our world is constantly changing and evolving, and we must ensure that our teacher education programmes ultimately enable our future educators to prepare our young people for the jobs in the future- jobs that do not exist as yet. As a result of the new partnerships between the Ministry and UCCI, I can confidently state that we are well on our way to achieving this goal.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.