

CASE STUDY

The Caribbean Internship Project (CIP): A successful cross campus collaborative effort

The CIP is an example of collaborative arrangements which aid curriculum development at the UWI and the advancement of regional development and integration. The CIP was developed in 2004 as a partnership between the Centre for Population, Community and Social Work (CPCSC), an outreach initiative of the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work), at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona and the Caribbean Child Support Initiative, (CCSI), a regional integrated programme of the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration, (CARICAD), based in Barbados. Funded initially by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, (BvLF), the CIP assists Early Childhood Development (ECD) and the strengthening of the care environment for children in the region through the placement of interns in social service agencies.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

a) Partnerships developed to aid sustainability:

- By 2010 the CIP became known as a project of the UWI involving all three campuses, Mona, St. Augustine and Cave Hill demonstrating commitment through contributions to support interns assigned and through collaboration to aid the processes and administration necessary for a successful collaborative effort
- By 2011 three Government Ministries in Belize, Grenada and Dominica and one Non-Government Organization in St. Lucia commenced partnerships with the UWI sharing the cost of interns placed at social service agencies in their country
- Interns as partners have funded either airfares (partially or fully) and/or the cost of insurance coverage, however interns are not rejected if they are unable to afford these costs

b) Administrative structure and liaison staff provided at each campus to aid cross campus collaboration

c) Documentation as a result of the collaborative effort

- A Case Study commissioned articulated the CIP model and principles and outlined recommendations for the future
- A draft procedure and policy manual was created to benefit an understanding of the processes involved

d) Internships as a result of the collaborative effort have ensured the following:

- Placement of 208 interns since 2004
- Funding of 36 interns by three campuses between 2009 & 2011
- Inclusion of a wide cross section of Caribbean nationals from 13 countries who served as interns
- Opportunities provided for final year students, recent graduates of undergraduate programmes and graduate students who pursue internships for accreditation
- Opportunities provided for students of 13 disciplines of the UWI to serve at social service agencies creating a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural approach to problem-solving
- Coverage to 13 agencies in diverse settings in 8 countries through implementation of culturally relevant best practices
- Transfer of skills and the strengthening of agency services through capacity building
- Experiential learning for interns which included family and community interventions, research and advocacy

AWARDS

- **The Centre for Population Community & Social Change received the Principal's award in 2005**

1. Successes cited are due to:

- BvLF's support of the initial design and implementation of the CIP and the relevant links forged in the region
- Coordination of the CIP
- Interest, motivation and influence of UWI's leadership to ensure relevant funding, structure, administration and liaison
- Collaboration of three UWI campuses

2. Challenges and Potential:

The initial BvLF funding ended in 2011 and discussions about the CIP's sustainability should now centre on:

- Institutionalization of the CIP at the UWI: Attention to key supportive elements
- Coordination of the CIP: A dedicated position is recommended
- Expansion of the CIP: Shaping new parameters post Bernard van Leer and beyond

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