

## **THE COMPREHENSIVE LEARNING CENTRE**

### **A SMALL INSTITUTION ACCOMPLISHING 'BIG THINGS'**

I can distinctly remember the statement of one visiting businesswoman as she moved from class to class at the Comprehensive Learning Centre. *“Well, I had no idea such big things go on in this small building.”*

My heart soared with pride upon hearing this commendation and I immediately reflected upon the efficient lecturers and the detailed planning required for the smooth operation of this small institution. However, it also cemented the realisation that many more people need to know that *‘big things’* do happen at the Comprehensive Learning Centre.

The Comprehensive Learning Centre (CLC) has grown tremendously in every respect, since its humble beginnings in 2002. From offering only a couple CXC subjects and a signature computer skills development programme to a few students, the CLC now records over 160 examination sittings in 10 CSEC and 3 CAPE subjects. Additionally, students are now undertaking studies and examinations leading toward the Associate Degree in Business Studies and General Studies. These Associate Degrees offered by the CXC since 2005, provide an excellent entry requirement into undergraduate degree and other programmes, as the Caribbean Examination Council has several articulation agreements already signed with a number of colleges and universities in the Caribbean, United Kingdom and the USA.

Equally important are the studies offered through the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, [ACCA], the global body for professional accountants: The Foundations in Accountancy [FIA] qualification, formerly the Certified Accounting Technician [CAT] qualification and the ACCA qualification. These programmes are done in collaboration with the Caribbean Consulting Group whose CEO is Dr Robertine Chaderton, a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) - UK and who also serves as a senior lecturer and researcher with the University of the West Indies.

The self development courses offered at the CLC have also multiplied. The signature Computer Skills Development Programme introduced in 2002 is now joined by the vibrant Conversational Spanish and French classes, the vital English as a Second Language programme, Project Management, Events Planning & Management and a Communication for Success programme.

The Adult Literacy programme undertaken at the CLC continues to bear admirable fruits as a number of adults who were challenged by the understanding of the written word, have not only conquered that adversity, but have proceeded to successfully write the CXC examinations. Needless to say, they have also been elevated in their various workplaces.

CLC’s customised consultancy services provided to businesses throughout Anguilla are also exceptional. Our clients have been totally satisfied with our services which range from Customer Care & Relationship Training to Organisational Change & Development.

Our children have not been ignored. The CLC's After School Care and Mentoring Programme as well as classes in the foreign languages, Mathematics and English have been well established. The CLC also organises summer programmes and collaborates with Sunset Homes to host the 'Easter, Yes I Can' programme.

The participants in all programmes offered at the CLC are nonetheless the chief success stories. Each successive year has seen students achieving increased CSEC and CAPE passes, providing the opportunity for employment and better paying jobs, admission into institutions of higher learning and simply, gaining self gratification.

When a mature student comes to the CLC void of any subjects, is employed in an unskilled low paying job, has a family to support and within 2 years can attain 8 subjects including those at the CAPE level, and move into a skilled and reasonably high paying job, then it proves beyond measure, that the CLC knows that it is really doing '**big things**'.

In like manner, when a young man who is disgruntled with his low paying position is dissuaded from entering into the drug trading world, by being encouraged to discover the power of reading and education and he eventually seizes that opportunity, then we know that the CLC is really doing '**big things**'.

So what makes the Comprehensive Learning Centre so successful? I would say a combination of winning factors though this is not an exhaustive list.

1. The conscious actualization of the CLC's vision, mission, and core values;
2. CLC's innovative teaching, learning and administrative strategies;
3. The strong belief and challenge that character development counts as much as academics;
4. The passion that CLC's lecturers have for their craft and their ability and determination to convey that passion to their students;
5. The services offered by the CLC are of a high quality and meet the needs of the learners.

As we prepare for another academic year, I am thankful that once again we have the opportunity to do 'big things'. This year the CLC is introducing Law, Pure Mathematics and Communication Studies at the CAPE level as the students progress toward achieving the Associate Degree in Business Studies. A well designed Conversational German Programme as well as an exciting Personal and Professional Development course are also new areas of study for the taking. CLC's management and lecturers are looking forward to an interesting year of camaraderie and success, another year of listening and questioning, another year of seeing eyes sparkle as newly acquired knowledge radiates the mind. We look forward to doing '**BIG THINGS!**'