



## **THE BAHAMAS**

Focal Point: Ms. Michelle Sears

### **GUIDELINES FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING (COL)**

1. Key challenges and opportunities (not more than 3 each) for 'learning for development' in your country.
2. Status of distance education/e-learning in your country.
3. Identify (not more than 5) top priorities you would like COL to take up during the next Three Year Plan 2012-2015.

### **THE BAHAMAS**

#### Key challenges and opportunities

- Equity of access - Building local capacity to train persons throughout the Family of Islands
- Expanding the network of users
- Strengthening male participation and high school completion rates, increasing access to tertiary education

#### Status of Open and Distance Education in The Bahamas

- An e-strategy has been developed for the Department of Education and implementation began in 2009. Objectives include technical, training and pedagogical support, curriculum and integration resources, research and development. The technical coordination Unit has been launched and training completed with 79 teachers in 14 school districts in collaboration with COL. COL is presently supporting this initiative which will produce a cadre of long distance education tutors throughout the country and strengthened teachers. As part of the e-strategy, District Tech Teams have been formed in an effort to connect educators from all islands and school districts to sustain ongoing collaboration.
- College of The Bahamas is committed to increased activity Distance Education in academic and professional development to enhance its presence throughout the archipelago. To facilitate this COB has recently completed its Distance Education Plan with the support of COL. Ms. Trudi Van Wyk will have an opportunity to

review and refine the DE plan. Further, we anticipate that COL will partner with the COB to implement this plan particularly in the area of training and the development of resources.

- College of The Bahamas is currently transitioning from the use of Blackboard to Moodle and we anticipate that COL will provide support to the institution with regards to hosting of Moodle.

### **TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2012-2015**

- Develop capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to use distance learning for farmer training, for on-going professional development for technical staff resident in rural areas and to link rural farming communities with agricultural credit programmes in the capital.
- To provide training for teachers in the design / preparation of professional development resources at all levels.
- Provide support for College of The Bahamas DE Plan.