

GRENADA

COL activities in 2003-2006

BACKGROUND

Since COL's inception, it has organised annual meetings for the Caribbean Chief Education Officers. The meetings are used to share information within the region on open and distance learning (ODL) activities in order to promote and support sharing of expertise and experience. Grenada has been an active participant in these meetings.

SUMMARY

In the 2003-2006 period, COL's partnership with Grenada made it possible for the Chief Education Officer to attend Caribbean CEOs meetings allowing Grenada to contribute to international debate and exchange experiences with other countries

Grenada has now enrolled students in the Technical Teacher Training programme offered by the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTECH). This programme was developed by COL through regional collaboration. Grenada has also signed up to the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) but is not yet an active participant.

POLICY AND SYSTEMS ENHANCEMENT

Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)

COL invited the small states of the Commonwealth, through their Ministers of Education, to indicate if they wished to participate in the creation of the VUSSC (for more details of VUSSC see section on Pan-Commonwealth initiatives). Grenada has signed the agreement.

Media Empowerment to Achieve development and environmental goals

Agribusiness – this activity, on-going since 2000 with the Ministry of Agriculture's Extension Services and Media Unit, has installed digital video technology and trained extension officers to create productions that are

aired weekly by the national television broadcaster to educate farmers in new techniques and crop diversification. This has resulted in a move towards organic agricultural techniques and employment opportunities have arisen from markets available for organic produce overseas. Training in crop diversification via media has also enabled the farmers to move away from single crop dependency.

Working with regional partners

Grenada has enrolled students in the Technical Teacher Training programme which was developed by COL through regional collaboration and is being offered by UTECH, Jamaica. Two representatives from Grenada recently attended a COL-sponsored workshop on the future of the programme.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COL organises and supports a meeting of Caribbean Chief Education Officer (CEOs) on an approximate annual basis. The purpose for the meeting is to discuss and share information about regional ODL initiatives, and to provide an opportunity to the CEOs for professional development.

The Chief Education Officer from Grenada has attended the last two CEO meetings – one held in conjunction with the 3rd Pan-Commonwealth Forum in Dunedin, New Zealand in August 2004, and one in Trinidad in February 2005 which was held just prior to the launch of the Caribbean Association for Distance and Open Learning.

A three-day meeting of the authors of the proposed book on “Foreign Tertiary Education Providers in the Anglophone Caribbean” was held in Trinidad & Tobago in October 2005. Grenada sent a representative to the meeting.

COL provided orientation on the use of the knowledge finder to a group of ten persons. The Caribbean Knowledge Learning Network (CKLN) invited COL to participate in its meeting to formalise the network.

LOOKING FORWARD

Through its partnership with COL, Grenada has been an active contributor to international debate and strategic planning. Its commitment to VUSSC was an important feature of the 2003-2006 period and VUSSC will continue to be a significant focus for the next planning period of 2006-2009.