

Press Release: UCCI Brac Campus

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History in the making on Cayman Brac

With a mission to offer access to tertiary education for all who have the potential and passion to learn the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) and the Civil Service College (POCS) will take another crucial step towards that goal this month with the official opening of the Cayman Brac Campus.

On Monday, 21 January, 2008, another milestone for Brackers will be met when the UCCI campus opens its doors to the people of the Sister Islands offering them access to tertiary education.

The event will see local educators, Brackers, civil servants and government come together to celebrate what is a truly significant leap forward for local further education. Certainly, a momentous occasion, the event marks a turning point for the future of Brackers. Never before has tertiary education been directly available to the local population who have always been forced to leave the island in order to study.

Alongside the traditional classroom learning and with the help of modern technology such as video conferencing and e-learning, Dean of UCCI Dr. Brian Chapell says Brac students will have access to numerous courses at the Brac campus through a phased strategy.

“With a goal to offer education to the Sister Islands, the opening of the Brac Campus has been very important to UCCI. We will be offering access to communications and IT courses as well as the most popular Associate Degree classes in the very near future.”

Located opposite the District Administration Building, the courses available will be tailored to meet the requirements of the Brac population and offer Brackers a unique opportunity to change their futures. The new Campus Director Martin Keeley who will be coordinating courses on the Brac and also teaching classes himself said that the campus truly is a major step forward for education.

“Until now, most residents have had to leave the island to obtain any form of tertiary level education. That has all changed. To have the campus here is very exciting and will not only give access to higher education, but will give the Brac economy a boost by bringing students here to study. There are some great opportunities. The Campus will also serve as a facility for others to use as an educational centre for the entire community.”

“The implementation of Public Sector Reform over the last five years has significantly affected the way Government operates, different skills and competencies are now required to operate in this new environment. The Civil Service College was established to bridge the knowledge gap between the old and new way of doing business. The extension of the Civil Service College gives the same opportunities to civil servants, as those working in Grand Cayman, to acquire the necessary skills to improve the

performance of the various government entities operating in Cayman Brac and Little Cayman t.” said Peter Gough, Deputy Head of the Civil Service.

Local sister Islands MLA Moses Kirkconnell recently said that with the introduction of the first tertiary education facility on the Sister Islands there was the potential to transform the Brac into a knowledge-driven community.

“For a long time, there has been a thirst for further education within our small population. However, the reality up until now has been that, for many here on this island, further education courses have been impossible,” he said. “I am delighted that UCCI has made this step and I know that Brackers will take full advantage.”

According to a survey of the Brac population between 30 and 40 students graduate from Cayman Brac High School each year, many of whom want to go on to tertiary education. At the moment, many stay on the Brac for one or two years because they are not ready or willing to leave home. Now those students have an alternative.

UCCI’s President Dr. Hassan Syed has since taking up his post he wishes to remove all the barriers to education for all who have the potential and passion to learn.

“The arrival of the Brac Campus is an historic occasion where UCCI has made good on its promise to extend tertiary education opportunities to the sister islands,” he said. “This is one of the many initiatives in the pipeline to ensure that Caymanians can enjoy the benefits of all the exciting learning opportunities at UCCI.”

UCCI would like to extend an invitation to all residents of Cayman Brac to attend the ceremony which will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 21 January 2008 at the UCCI Campus across from the District Administration building. Interested parties may contact Deborah Chambers (dchambers@ucci.edu.ky or 526-5013) or Kathleen Celoria (kceloria@ucci.edu.ky or 526-5010).