

Press Release draft: CIIB and UCCI to launch student consulting programme
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A Student Consulting Programme is slated to launch at the University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) in partnership with The Cayman Islands Investment Bureau (CIIB).

The programme, targeting students enrolled in the upper level management independent study courses at UCCI, is facilitated under the guidance of UCCI faculty and CIIB business advisors. Themed "Entrepreneurial Education in Action", the student consulting team will work with professional advisors to on small business consulting projects,

As a precursor to the Student Consulting Programme starting in the fall, three student-teams will be conducting a special needs assessment survey of small businesses starting February 25th. The teams, each consisting of two UCCI business students and one Investment Bureau advisor, will be making visits throughout the month of April conducting a short survey on issues facing small businesses.

"This initiative is modelled after a very successful programme that has been in operation in Florida for the last 25 years," explained Investment Bureau Executive Director Dr. Dax Basdeo. "This is a great opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience and to apply what they have learned to solve real-world problems. The small businesses that participate benefit from access not only to the expertise of the CIIB advisors, but also the faculty at UCCI."

Dr. Basdeo said the programme will also give small and micro businesses access to free assistance in specific problem areas and allow the CIIB and UCCI researchers to gain a better understanding of the small business sector. This is expected to result in the development of more proactive assistance programmes through the CIIB and UCCI.

John Frederick, Senior Lecturer, who is heading up the initiative from the UCCI side, explains, "This programme is ideal for our students to synthesize what they have learned in the classroom with real business problems. Additionally, it gives our students a chance to reach out and help our community."

He further explained that upon completion of the needs assessment survey and follow-up analysis that will be completed in April, students will have a better feel for the business climate in Cayman. There are further plans to conclude the spring initiative by holding a public forum to discuss the survey's findings and the students' analysis.

UCCI's Business Development Manager, Kathleen Celoria said "This is yet another initiative that UCCI is taking to ensure that our education is well rounded for students and competency based. Not only will students benefit from the technical and theoretical knowledge they are gaining from their degree programmes, but also putting the theory into practice."

For more information, contact UCCI at (345) 949-9580 or CIIB at (345) 945-0943.

The University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) UCCI is an institution of higher learning that contributes to Caymanian society by advancing knowledge and developing creative graduates through our cultural, social, economic and environmental activities. UCCI offers a number of certificate programmes, associate and degree courses as well as graduate programmes and professional trainings. Visit www.ucci.edu.ky to learn more.