

Press Release draft: UCCI ICT courses for JGHS

Date: Feb 7 2008

Words: 597

Young IT enthusiasts 'click on' early

Demonstrating its commitment to education for all the University of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) is extending its remit to the school community and offering an unprecedented learning opportunity to young people with an interest in Information Communication Technology.

Students from John Grey High School are being given the chance to kick start their IT careers and 'click on' to their futures under a new partnership with UCCI. Fifty-one Year Ten students are taking advantage of an Applied ICT Certificate Level 1 programme offered in collaboration with the high school and the University College - giving students the opportunity to study a recognized technology course covering everything from computer basics to upgrading operating systems before graduating high school.

With Information Communication Technology skills becoming an ever more crucial requirement for the modern workplace the school is utilizing both the expertise and resources of the UCCI to help their students get a head start. The course was created by the UCCI's faculty and is based on the CompTiA A+ syllabus developed by COM 060.

The students took the first part of the course at John Grey where their IT teachers helped them through the twenty-seven hours of hard work and study which covered a range of ICT skills from understanding the fundamentals of computing and operating systems to the basics of troubleshooting. The students are now eligible to take the second Applied ICT Certificate level 1 B which moves them on to more sophisticated specialist areas of the subject and also takes them out of the school room and on to the UCCI campus.

The students are attending classes for two hours each week on Tuesdays or Thursdays at the ICT labs and they are benefitting from the expertise of two of UCCI's MCSE qualified faculty members.

Mr. Perry George, Chair of Computer Sciences at UCCI said the collaboration reflected the college's continued commitment to education for all and that the course represented a unique opening for John Grey students to achieve a practical qualification and get an early start gaining some valuable college experience.

"This is a great opportunity for these young people to get a grounding and a recognized qualification even before they leave high school," he said. "Education at UCCI is for everyone and we hope that these students will be continue on and take their ICT studies further at UCCI when they graduate from John Grey."

Having grasped the basics in their first course, in this second part of the programme the students are now being introduced to more complex principles of ICT such as networks and computer security. The course also offers practical training in how to communicate with customers for whom they may be diagnosing, repairing or upgrading computers. Using practical and competency based learning as well as gaining the certificate, the students will be able to utilize the skills they learn at UCCI in the workplace when they start their IT careers. The courses are, however, primarily designed to help the young students in the transition from school based learning to college.

“With the business community’s desperate need for ICT qualified employees, these John Grey students are taking an early but important step into further education which will bring them rewarding future careers,” said Kathleen Celoria the UCCI’s Business Development Manager. “Having listened to business leaders, we believe that this initiative will help UCCI to prepare young Caymanians for the workplace.”

UCCI offers a number of certificate programmes, associate and degree courses in various aspects of Information Technology and Computer Science as well as professional Microsoft courses. For more information visit www.ucci.edu.ky