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H. Lavity Stoutt Community College

# staffNEWSLETTERinfoupdate

## Hospitality Students Gain Exposure at National Society of Minorities Conference

Four members of H. Lavity Stoutt Community College's Hospitality Club travelled to St. Louis, Missouri on Wednesday 12 February to attend a conference being hosted by the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality, a non-profit student-run professional organisation based in Virginia.

The students, Nancy Phillip-Todman, Desiree Creque, Whitney George, and Timulji Hughes, were accompanied by Lecturer in the Business and Computer Studies Department Keshia Davis-Barnes C.H.T, who also serves as club advisor.

The group attended the NSMH's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference, which was held from 13-16 February under the theme, "Celebrating A Quarter Century: NSMH Homecoming." The event is aimed at providing networking opportunities and building relationships with industry leaders and institutions worldwide.

Ms. Davis-Barnes strongly feels that it is important for students to recognise and become familiar with industry professionals which would enhance their awareness of the endless opportunities provided by the tourism industry.

The NSMH conference provides a wide range of resources to our students, such as resumé building, interviewing techniques, intern and scholarship opportunities, and much more.

H. Lavity Stoutt Community College is the first and only NSMH chapter in the Caribbean. Ms. Davis-Barnes is currently working on a project with an aim to developing an NSMH Caribbean Chapter. This initiative will provide greater exposure for

hospitality students to the industry, enhance networking opportunities with international practitioners, and facilitate internships and work-study placements with business operators globally.

Founded in Spring 1989 at Cornell University, the NSMH works in conjunction with sponsors to establish a working relationship between the hospitality industry and minority students. Its mission is to provide education to aid in the recruitment, retention, support and advancement of minority students in the hospitality industry.

Here are some photo highlights:



Nancy Phillip-Todman (L), Whitney George (C), Desiree Creque (R)



**Lecturer, Ms. Davis-Barnes (standing), Whitney George (L), Desiree Creque (C), Nancy Phillip-Todman (R)**

### More STEP success at HLSCC

Another group of students have been successful at foundation and diploma level examinations of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), which are offered through the Financial Services Institute at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College.

The College, in collaboration with STEP BVI, congratulated the students and presented them with certificates at a brief ceremony held at the office of the O’Neal Webster law firm, Road Town on Monday 17 February, 2014.

The students gained passes in the STEP Foundation Course, as well as the STEP Diploma 2 in Company Law and Practice as part of the Diploma programme; the gold standard in the trusts and estate industry and coveted by employers in the offshore arena.

Chair of STEP BVI Vanessa King congratulated the students and stressed that what they have embarked on is an international level certification, recognized throughout the offshore world as a premier qualification in the field.

Ms. King also encouraged students to attend the monthly STEP BVI meetings, saying this forum will provide them with a great opportunity to network with professionals in the field.

President of HLSCC Dr. Karl Dawson welcomed the success of the students and said he was pleased to see so many of them coming through the ranks of the financial services industry in the Virgin Islands. He stated that HLSCC, through the Financial Services Institute, is committed to supporting the local industry and investing in the development of staff.

Director of the Financial Services Institute Andrew Burns, who tutored both courses, was unavailable but sent his congratulations to the students on what he described as “exemplary performances,” reiterating that their success is recognized both locally and internationally, STEP being a global organization.

The Financial Services Institute not only delivers the STEP courses, but also coordinates face-to-face support for the diploma level modules. The Institute was launched on 9 October, 2002 with the aim of responding to the evolving training needs of the financial services sector and serving as a centre for excellence in education and training for the industry.



**CAPTIONED Left to Right:**

**Back Row: Kezia Elizee, Dr. Karl Dawson (President HLSCC), Onecia Cummings, Clement Fahie, Kandase Hodge, Kevin Richards, Ava Ramnarain, Cristiane de Matos, Fanny Evans, Shakima Herbert, Lyntai Abraham**

**Front Row: Lovelin Perez-Mendez, Vanessa King (Chair of STEP BVI), Faith Dawson, Shamara Morton-Maynard**

**Successful others not present: Tanya Cassie-Parker, Theresa Fos, Janis Maduro**