



PRESS RELEASE

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COHORT TWO OF THE MARINE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Monday, October 19 – The H. Lavity Stoutt Community College welcomed twelve new participants to the Marine Professional Training Programme Level 1 – Cohort 2 on October 14 during a launching ceremony at the Marine Centre in Paraquita Bay.

The programme, which was first launched in October 2019 through the Centre for Applied Marine Studies at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, is affiliated with the American Boat and Yacht Council, Royal Yacht Association, BVI Tourist Board, BVI Lifeguards, US Sailing and MCA (STCW). Funding for the ABYC affiliation was provided by Nanny Cay, which is one of the largest purveyors of marine services and facilities in the British Virgin Islands.

Dean of Workforce Training Division, Mrs. Marva Wheatley-Dawson said that the Marine Professional Training programme is designed to provide high quality vocational training, which represents a strategic shift to competency based and employment-focused learning for the Marine Industry.

She added, “Our goal today is to ensure that the participants get a full understanding about the programme and what is expected of them as they embark on this skilled journey.”

MORE





PRESS RELEASE

Page 2

October 19, 2020

Junior Minister of Trade and Economic Development, Honourable Shereen Flax-Charles congratulated the participants and implored them to take in all the knowledge that they will receive. She said, “You are going to become the major players in the marine industry here in the Virgin Islands.”

She also took the time to specifically single out the first and only female to be registered since the start of the programme in 2019. She said that there are certain fields that persons think that a female might not be able to do, but women can do just about anything that men can do.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Arlene Smith-Thompson, who mirrored the sentiments of Honourable Flax-Charles also said, “As the sailing Capital of the Caribbean, we must capitalise on initiatives such as this training programme for Virgin Islanders to participate in and grow the marine industry. The orientation activities that are being rolled out today are not only designed to welcome you but to also expose you to the range of support services that are available to ensure your success.”

In recent years, the College has publicly announced that it is trying to become a regional maritime centre of excellence. With the support and sponsorship from the Government of the Virgin Islands (Premier’s Office) and Unite BVI, many strides have been taken in this regard.

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NOTE:

1. Group photo of all the registered participants of the Marine Professional Training Programme. Front row/L to R: J’Mori Jean-Jaques, Bjon Smith, Kimberly Johnson, Delani Fraser. Back row/ L to R: Royston Percival, Andrew Cox, Jr., Ron Hatchett, Koen Penn, Kahdeem Nesbitt, Kyrique Thomas, Jelani Norman (not pictured: Juwan Stevens) **(Photo Credit: Junior Daniel/HLSCC)**





PRESS RELEASE

2. Marine Programme Manager, Mr. Matthew Holt delivering remark during the launching ceremony. **(Photo Credit: Junior Daniel/HLSCC)**
3. Junior Minister for Trade and Economic Development, Honourable Shereen Flax-Charles delivering remarks during the launching ceremony. **(Photo Credit: Junior Daniel/HLSCC)**
4. Group photo of all the registered participants of the Marine Professional Training Programme along with representatives from UNITE BVI and HLSCC. **(Photo Credit: Junior Daniel/HLSCC)**

