

## MESSAGE FROM CAMPUS REGISTRAR, OPEN CAMPUS



Whether you are a new or returning student, I wish you a warm welcome to the Open Campus at the start of academic year 2016/2017. The year ahead promises to be one of challenge and change, for each of you, as well as for the Open Campus and the University of the West Indies.

Among the changes this year, we anticipate the launch of the Campus's new Banner Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System which is being designed to improve our efficiency and enhance our services to you. As we draw closer to our first "go live" event, you will be kept informed about, and trained to navigate, the self-service features that are designed to make your student journey easier and better. Additionally, as we improve our administrative systems and procedures, we will continue to develop new programmes and courses, particularly in the area of Continuing and Professional Education, in both online and face-to-face mode.

Whether you are studying full time or juggling part-time studies with work and family commitments, I encourage you to explore and utilise the plethora of resources that are available to support you, whether online through your eTutors, and Course Coordinators, or the Open Campus Library Information System (OCLIS), or the administrative support units such as the Registry and the Help Desk, or face-to-face at our nearly 50 country Sites and Open Learning Centres across the region. We are here to help you to succeed and to achieve your goals and dreams through providing accessible, cost effective, flexible and high quality educational options.

Engage and participate! Although most of us will interact in the virtual environment, we are decidedly part of a wider educational community and opportunities exist to network and make lasting friendships through your formal and informal work groups, as well as through participation in University-wide, regional activities such as the Intercampus Games – which provide lots of fun, excitement and bonding moments. The Guild of Students also presents an excellent opportunity to hone leadership skills, advocate for your fellow students, participate in the University's governing bodies and travel! And if you are a graduate student, the Intercampus Debating Competition may be just your speed.

Your Student Handbook, which is updated annually, is available on our website. This is an indispensable tool to help you successfully navigate the regulations and processes that govern your academic life while at The UWI Open Campus. It also includes useful information on the history, organizational structure and Principal Officers of the Campus, provides contact information for all Sites and even offers helpful tips for studying in the online environment. Have a read at the start of each year and use it as a guide when questions arise throughout the year. Becoming familiar with this comprehensive reference source may save you time and money.

So, as you take on the challenges and opportunities of the new academic year, make it a rewarding, successful and enjoyable journey. All the very best!

Karen Ford-Warner  
Campus Registrar