

THE BACLIGHT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BARBADOS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone. My name is Ryan Broome and I'm happy to introduce myself to you as the Barbados Accreditation Council's (BAC) Information Officer.

I have joined the BAC at a very important time, when the Council is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The theme for the 20th Anniversary is 'Reflection Appreciation Celebration', and we were thankful to have been given the opportunity to officially kick off the celebrations with a launch service at the **Sanctuary Empowerment Centre** on March 10th.

In this 20th year, the BAC gives everyone the assurance that we take our mandate seriously, as we perform the lead role in maintaining and improving educational standards at the post-secondary/tertiary education level in Barbados. We invite you to celebrate with us at the remaining Anniversary events that are open to the public.

BARBADOS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL		2024
Calendar of 20th ANNIVERSARY Events		
MAR 10th	✓	THANKSGIVING CHURCH SERVICE SANCTUARY EMPOWERMENT CENTRE
APR 20th	✓	HISTORIC BRIDGETOWN TOUR
MAY 10th	✓	OPEN DAY 10 am to 3 pm
JUNE 22ND		FAMILY FUN DAY
AUG 17th		GAMES NIGHT & KARAOKE 6PM - 11 PM
SEPT 6th		COMMUNITY OUTREACH
OCTOBER 10th		BAC LECTURE
NOV 16th		GALA



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MRS. LISA GALE

Registration signals that an educational provider has met the minimum standards of quality assurance required to deliver tertiary education and training in Barbados...

Some people say 20 years is not 20 days.

An organisation like the BAC continues to be necessary, as we seek to provide quality assurance and quality enhancement to higher education and training providers in Barbados. I'm pleased to be a part of that ongoing push to give recognition to quality offerings.

So far I have witnessed registrations, re-registrations, white coat ceremonies, lectures, graduations, accreditations and re-accreditations, midcycle reviews, issuance of charters, recognition of Awarding bodies, individuals receiving recognition of CARICOM Skills certificates, and medical school tours, among other things.

Today I will zero in on one of our services which is most easily misunderstood.

That of registration.

Registration signals that an educational provider has met the minimum standards of quality assurance required to deliver tertiary education and training in Barbados. These standards are established by the BAC which is a statutory body operating under the egis of the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training with its genesis in an Act of Parliament in Barbados since 2004.

Any organisation or institution offering education and/or training to persons over the age of 16 years in Barbados is required to register with the BAC as registration seeks to assure the public that a tertiary educational provider meets certain criteria to operate in Barbados. This public recognition is important since it means that the BAC would have evaluated the provider's operations against its criteria for registration.

Many persons mix up registration with accreditation. Accreditation is the global standard.

The real word persons should be focussed on is recognition.

At the BAC we have two main forms of recognition for these providers - Registration and Accreditation.

You would be pleased to know that this process of registration is also extremely thorough, and the BAC provides the technical support and guidance to the provider before selecting an Evaluation Team, with the necessary skills and competencies required. The team of international peer evaluators then conducts a comprehensive registration evaluation visit.

Based on the outcome of the external evaluation, the institution is granted registration for a period of one (1) year, two (2) years or three years, having satisfied us that it has met the criteria.

In a recent decision by the BAC's board of directors, all institutions will undergo the external evaluation every three years. In our early years we took several baby steps with the institutions, as quality assurance was new and the level of rigour would not have been appreciated by many institutions, some of which existed long before the establishment of the Council.

We however believe the country is sufficiently ready for this consistent peering and have recently gone further to add the external review for all higher education providers. Several of our providers of tertiary education have indicated that they now 'more than ever' appreciate the rigour and thoroughness exhibited by the BAC in its attempts to demonstrate that these institutions satisfy the criteria. They admit that they are the better for it as systems emerge that augment the operations of these entities.

In today's globally competitive world, students, partners and stakeholders are looking for relationships with recognised institutions full stop.

The Barbados Accreditation Council must remain the guardian of the tertiary educational sector by ensuring that learners, current and prospective, are guaranteed quality offerings by the various providers of education and training.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CHURCH SERVICE



Executive Director of the (BAC) Mrs. Lisa Gale (fourth from left) poses with some of the staff members of the BAC who attended the 20th Anniversary Church service at the Sanctuary Empowerment Centre on March 10th 2024.

Reaching the 20 year mark in anything is a big deal, so we at the BAC got the year of anniversary celebrations officially rolling by giving God thanks with a church service at the Sanctuary Empowerment Centre, which is also in close proximity to the original headquarters of the BAC in nearby Roebuck Street. Special thanks to leaders of the church - Bishop Dr. Marlon Husbands and Prophetess Dr. Suzette Husbands for hosting us.

AFRICAN AWARENESS MONTH ACTIVITIES



Teams from different sections of the BAC, including the Office of the Executive Director, Administration, Accounts, Quality Assurance and Quality Enhancement, and Secretarial and Records, participated in African Awareness Month activities in February. It was also an important team building exercise, as everyone researched different countries in Africa and made presentations to colleagues on the educational standards infrastructure of each country.

20TH ANNIVERSARY BRIDGETOWN TOUR



As part of the BAC's 20th Anniversary activities, staff along with some members of the Board, participated in a guided tour of Historic Bridgetown on April 20th. It was led by Claudette Levi-Farnum of Discover Heritage Tours.

EVALUATORS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP



The Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC) hosted an **Orientation Workshop for local Evaluators** on April 17th. In her welcoming remarks **Executive Director** of the Council, **Mrs. Lisa Gale** said she was excited about the training exercise, noting that the BAC is keen to continue to build out a cadre of particularly local professionals, who can add a level of rigour to the work we do here at the BAC, and to ensure that the enhancement of quality is maintained.

She said evaluators remain a key part of the BAC's recognition process.

The workshop was led by **Manager – Technical Services Sharon Alleyne**, along with **Quality Assurance Officers Rochelle Jordan** and **Cassandra Earle-Hazell**.

They took the participants through a series of exercises, inclusive of realistic accreditation and registration scenarios which the participants tackled individually and in break-out groups.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY

The Barbados Accreditation Council hosted a successful 20th Anniversary Open Day at its Phoenix Centre, George Street, St. Michael headquarters. Several secondary school students benefited from the Open Day, which also saw participation by a number of the BAC's partners and stakeholders, including the University of the West Indies, American University of Barbados, Barbados Community College, the Barbados Vocational Training Board, and Reflections Spa Institute, all of whom set up booths inside and outside the Council's offices.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all who helped to make the event a success.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RE-REGISTERED INSTITUTIONS



Congratulations to the Caribbean School of Holistic Therapies.

Executive Director of the BAC Mrs. Lisa Gale (left) was on hand with Quality Assurance Officer Sergio Alleyne (right) to present Co-Directors and Trainers of the School, Barbara Daniel-Goddard and Ann Maxine Harry (centre left and right) with their Certificate of Registration.



Congratulations to the Erdiston Teachers Training College.

Deputy Principal of the College Mr. Francis Thompson recently received the certificate on behalf of the College from Executive Director of the BAC Mrs. Lisa Gale. Quality Assurance Officer Mr. Sergio Alleyne was also on hand for the presentation.

What is a quality policy? A Quality policy is the starting point for developing a formal quality management system (QMS). Its purpose is to set the framework for the commitment of the scope of the QMS for internal and external stakeholders. The quality policy also serves as the first step towards building a culture of quality in an organisation.

The quality policy is usually a simple, straightforward statement that aligns with the organisation's mission, context (i.e. operational direction), and strategic direction. The policy can be the company's mission statement, vision, values, charter, or statement of principles. As such, quality policies will vary from organisation to organisation. Nevertheless, the following are key elements of a good quality policy:

1. should be developed and implemented by top/senior management,
2. should outline the organisation's commitment to quality and customer satisfaction,
3. should be relatively easy to generate key quality objectives from it,
4. should be communicated to and understood by all staff within the organisation, and
5. should include a commitment to comply with applicable requirements (e.g. ISO21001, customer, regulatory, or statutory), continuous process improvements, and to maintain the effectiveness of the quality management system.

Not to worry. A quality policy can be revised later, if necessary, but it is good to get it right the first time.

Now you've designed your quality policy, what's next? 🤔

Once the quality policy is established, it is critical for it to be widely published where it is visible to everyone. For example, throughout the organisation, on the company's website, publications and so forth. An organisation may take the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) approach to developing and evaluating the effectiveness of its quality policy and quality objectives.

A well-crafted quality policy helps the organisation to define what quality means within the organisation and forms the basis for setting quality objectives. It will ensure that all employees understand the relationship between their jobs, product or service quality, continuous improvement, and the overall success of the organisation. So...

Keep your quality policy simple, always relevant to the organisation and meaningful to your employees.

References

<https://www.unitylabservices.com/en/support/quality-management/the-purpose-a-quality-policy.html>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/3-key-elements-your-quality-policy-needs-graham-o-keeffe>

<https://www.iso-9001-checklist.co.uk/5.2-quality-policy.htm#quality-policy-template>

LOCAL FOCUS

**BAC: CARICOM skilled national applications growing**

There has been a significant surge in Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nationals seeking accreditation for their qualifications from the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC), Executive Director Lisa Gale has disclosed....

 Barbados Today / May 15

GLOBAL FOCUS

**International students applying to record number of universities and destinations, survey by INTO Universit...**

International students worldwide are applying to record number of universities and destinations, a global survey of education counsellors by INTO University Partnerships has revealed. A total of 1,240 recruitment...

 India Education / May 27

THE BACLIGHT

Please visit our website to stay abreast of the latest insights from the BAC's analytics!

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