

Bi-Annual Newsletter

April 2016



COBEC

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation

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SUMMER CONFERENCE: COLUMBUS

Dates for our COBEC Summer Conference in Columbus are confirmed for Wednesday, 27 July-Friday, 29 July. 27 July is the pre-conference workshops day with the conference proper running 28-29 July.

Please visit <http://www.cobec.org/> to ensure you can plan your participation in the conference. The registration form, hotel and transportation information, and a detailed PowerPoint are available online. You can type into the registration form and email or fax it back.

The Marriott (Downtown) conference rate is \$129 per night and you can book online by clicking this link: <http://bit.ly/1qiVz4X>

Although there is a small airport in Columbus, the only carrier is Delta which flies between Atlanta Hartsfield and Columbus several times each day. If you are flying Delta from elsewhere to Atlanta, you may wish to take Delta to Columbus as well. Typically the extra costs of this short journey are fairly high, especially when your carrier to Atlanta is not Delta. For the reasons above, it is recommended you arrive at Atlanta Hartsfield and take the Groome Shuttle to Columbus. Click here for more details: <http://columbus.groometransportation.com/>

Submitted by
Neal McCrillis

Future
CONFERENCE HOSTS

WINTER 2017:
GALEN UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2017:
MADISON AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

*"...transforms, strengthens,
and inspires."*

**PROVIDING LIFE-LONG
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College is a two-year technical college, serving Northeast Wisconsin by providing education, training, and life-long learning opportunities for individuals and businesses leading to the development of a skilled workforce. Our vision is to remain a cutting edge life-long learning college that transforms, strengthens, and inspires. Throughout 2014-2015 twenty-three students traveling in two separate cohorts embraced the opportunity to study abroad in Belize. The experiences were designed to enrich the student's cultural and diverse perspectives of Belize's early childhood educational system within the context of service-learning. Each student gained three practicum credits by working directly alongside educators within one of the Ministry of Education's 36 preschool programs in the city of Corozal, Belize.

The students also had the opportunity to be fully immersed in the culture of Belize through their host families, most of which were educators within their host school as well. Six students travelling as part of the 2015 cohort participated in a unique service-learning experience benefitting Barney Preschool in Corozal, which is commonly known to be the most underserved preschool in the district. The students gave this one room school a makeover using classroom design and organization strategies, sanitized all toys and learning materials, and also donated learning tools and play items. Through our partnership with COBEC, NWTC is preparing another cohort of students to study abroad in Belize this upcoming January 2017.



*Submitted by
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College*





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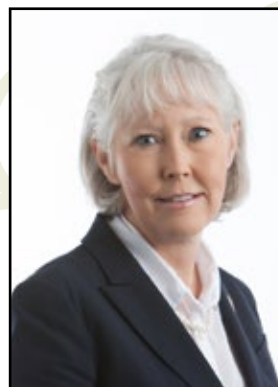
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STANN CREEK ECUMENICAL IS CARITAS IN MOTION

While most attendees traveled home after the winter conference, I was given a very nice extended moment to share BPCC’s free, open-source learning materials at Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College. Dr. Karen Martinez, her faculty, staff, and guests provided a gracious Dangriga welcome and allowed us to present how learners at any level can access supplemental video-based instruction in math and English. Together, we explored a “live” course and learning theories underpinning online frameworks. I’d hoped, not only, to offer our learning content but, also, to encourage more instructors to pursue their own online course development as an alternate path for access to higher education. I’m so grateful to Karen and to the COBEC community in Belize for building opportunities for partnerships and friendships that erase boundaries.



*Submitted by
Allison Haughton Martin,
Director of
Institutional Effectiveness Initiatives,
Bossier Parish Community College*



**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA, UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD**

As reported at our February 2016 COBEC meeting hosted by Independence Junior College in Placencia, the International Professional Development School collaborative initiative between the University of North Florida, the University of Belize and the Ministry of Education in Belize continues to make progress as fiscal year one comes to a close. On April 4, 2016 a second delegation of five Belizean educators representing the University of Belize, the Ministry of Education and KuxLin Ha Primary Government School will travel to Jacksonville, Florida where they will have the opportunity to observe firsthand, UNF's successful, award winning Urban Professional Development Schools and participate in workshops and training about Professional Development Schools. As second year funding begins in July 2016, UNF plans to explore the possibilities of establishing student exchanges with teacher education students from the University of Belize to be able to spend a brief three to four week internship experience in one of professional development schools in Jacksonville and to develop further the placement of UNF interns at KuxLin Ha Primary Government School in Belize.

This effort will continue to support the ongoing training in the areas of early literacy as well as addressing the special needs of teaching children with disabilities using the professional development school model. Drs. Susan Syverud, Deborah Reed, Cathy O'Farrell and John Kemppainen from UNF in collaboration with Drs. June Young, Catherine Wade, Maxine McKay, Cynthia Thompson and Nestor Chan from the University of Belize as well as Ms. Shirline Wiltshire, Aricelda Reed and Rosa Ramirez from KuxLin Ha and support from the Ministry of Education have worked diligently to bring this project to fruition. Phase two of this initiative will also include the use of technology which will allow for student teacher's supervisor to observe their students remotely with use of the Swivl Robot and an Ipad or other recording device. This will allow the supervisors to observe their student teachers in the classroom teaching while remaining in their offices or at a computer at a distant location by using Cloud technology. This has been a challenging but worthwhile initiative and the outcomes will benefit not only our student interns from both UNF and UB, but the children of Belize as well. More to come in future newsletters and at COBEC conferences.

*Submitted by
John Kemppainen*



ATLIB SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2016

The Association of Tertiary Level Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) will host a two-day professional development opportunity from Wednesday, May 18 to Thursday, May 19 in San Ignacio, Cayo. This workshop is in conjunction with Sacred Heart Junior College. Snacks and lunch will be provided during the workshop.

Day One: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration

Opening Ceremony

Workshops

Small Banquet (beginning at 5:00 p.m.)

Day Two: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Workshops

Closing Ceremony

Lecture topics include:

- Technology in the classroom
- Counseling Students
- SPSS Statistics Tool
- Grant proposal writing
- Platform and design of on-line courses
- Transforming young people from High School to University
- Developing Course Outlines
- Training and programme evaluation specifics
- Science Methods
- Math Methods
- English Methods
- Transition from Pedagogy to Andragogy

Day 1:

- How to improve Interpersonal Skills
- Purpose of Education/Training and Programme evaluation specifics

Day 2:

- Human Resource Management
- Choose a topic from the list for lecturers



Submitted by
 Fermin Magana
 fermin@shc.edu.bz



COBEC EVALUATION STUDY UPDATE

During the July 2015 COBEC meeting in Wilmington, a group of COBEC members volunteered to conduct an assessment of the impact of COBEC on Belize and US Tertiary Education Institutions. The intent was to evaluate how successful it has been in achieving its goals and assessing ways in which participants and stakeholders have benefitted from COBEC's programs and activities. The assessment team includes the nine COBEC members whose names are listed below.

After receiving approval for the study from UNF's IRB, the team conducted eleven interviews that included both founding and long standing members. Historical documents stored at Valdosta State University, University of North Florida, and elsewhere are being classified and analyzed. We developed and disseminated a questionnaire online to all COBEC members (the questionnaire is accessible at this site: https://ufl.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dcd8WtiYxvzNFnD). In April, COBEC member institutions will be asked to provide information on the number of students who have attended COBEC institutions since 1990 and the number of students who have benefited from financial assistance through the efforts of COBEC individuals and institutions. COBEC institutions that would like to contribute to the study by identifying and sending the Team information may contact Deborah Davis (dsdavis@valdosta.edu). During the second phase of the study, which begins in April, the Team will begin analyzing the interview data, collecting and analyzing survey data, and continue classifying and analyzing the COBEC's archival and historical documents.

The team will provide an update at the July meeting in Columbus. Special thanks to COBEC for support of the study, especially for providing funds for Dr. Flinchum's travel to conduct several of the interviews and for transcribing of the audio interviews.

The research team extends its deepest gratitude to all COBEC members for their contributions to the study, especially to those who have taken time to complete the online questionnaire and those who have taken time from their busy schedules to answer our interview questions. We trust the information from the study will contribute to COBEC's continual growth and development, which we hope will increase meaningful and rewarding academic opportunities for our students in Belize and the United States.

COBEC's Evaluation Team

- **Nancy Adamson** - Executive Director, C.E.L.A.
- **Eve Aird** - Provost, Galen University
- **Ethel Arzu** - Director, Quality Assurance, University of Belize
- **Deborah Davis** - Archivist, Valdosta State University
- **Kathaleena Edward Monds** - Professor, Albany State University
- **Betty Flinchum** - Emeritus COBEC member, University of North Florida
- **Emilia Hodge (Chair)** - Director, Office of Graduate International Outreach, University of Florida
- **Warren Hodge** - Associate Professor, University of North Florida
- **Cynthia Thompson** - Assistant Provost, University of Belize

*Submitted by
Emilia Hodge (on behalf of Team)
ehodge@aa.ufl.edu*

RECAP OF WINTER 2016 CONFERENCE

Thank you for everyone who attended! We appreciate your insight, membership, and fellowship.

2016 WINTER
conference

FEB. 4-5

Robert's Grove, Placencia Village, Stann Creek District

Thank you to our host
INDEPENDENCE JUNIOR COLLEGE

68 attendees

39 INSTITUTIONS

25 speakers

PHOTOS FROM WINTER 2016 CONFERENCE



Hon. Patrick Faber, Minister of Education, Youth, & Sports; Sir Colville Young, GCMG, MBE, Governor General of Belize; Rick Bateman, Jr., Ph.D., Chancellor, Bossier Parish Community College



Marie Scott-Young, Dean, Independence Junior College



Hon. Patrick Faber, Minister of Education, Youth, & Sports

CONTINUED: PHOTOS FROM WINTER 2016 CONFERENCE



COBEC Co-Chairs Jane Bennett and Neal McCrillis with the new members from Albany State University, Bossier Parish Community College, and the Citadel.



Garifuna Drummers



Allison Martin, Bossier Parish Community College



Dr. Martin Cuellar, Galen University; Loretta Logan, Teacher; Stewart Krohn, Channel 5 Productions; Dr. Neulin Villanueva, Ministry of Education



STAY CONNECTED

Visit www.COBEC.org to stay connected with news, updates, and events.

Contact Dr. Rick Bateman, Jr. at rbateman@bpcc.edu for news-related events, questions, or concerns.