

# COBEEC

*Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation*



2019  
**WINTER**  
CONFERENCE

Conference details inside  
**February 7-8**

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2019

**WINTER**  
CONFERENCE

*Hosted by*  
*San Pedro Junior College*

San Pedro Junior College in Belize is the host for the 2019 Winter Conference. Join us Thursday and Friday, February 7-8 at Banyan Bay.

San Pedro has arranged for discounted rates for COBEC Winter Conference participants. Please see the registration form and the hotel rates form at the end of this newsletter.

For questions or concerns, please email [spjuniorcollege.bze@gmail.com](mailto:spjuniorcollege.bze@gmail.com).

*See Winter Conference forms on pages 6-8.*

*Click [HERE](#) for conference agenda.*

**SUMMER**  
**RECAP**

Last July, Bossier Parish Community College was delighted to serve as host for 30th Anniversary Summer Conference of the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation. To relive the event, take a look at the conference photos by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/2FgSvlw>.

Wishing another wonderful 30 years for COBEC. Laissez le bon temps rouler!

# BELIZE

## FEBRUARY 2019 EDUCATION EXPO

### BELIZE TERTIARY OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES EDUCATION EXPO 2019

The Ministry of Education through the Belize Tertiary Options and Opportunities Education Expo Committee requests your participation in this year's education expo. The event will be held on February 6, 2019, from 8:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. at the Belize City Civic Center.

High school seniors are expected to attend from 8:30 a.m. to around 3:00 p.m. The general public is expected throughout the day. We know that some will only be able to visit after working hours so we aim to be available to them until 6:00 p.m. The committee encourages the presence of alumni at your booth to share their experiences and assist your representative during the day.

Please send an email to [bzetoedexpo@moe.gov.bz](mailto:bzetoedexpo@moe.gov.bz) to let us know how many persons will be at your booth and the time when you will be available to visitors. Please follow up with Ms. Javiola Aragon. Please also copy Megan Popkey ([megan.popkey@nwtc.edu](mailto:megan.popkey@nwtc.edu)) and Eleanor Gillett ([wesleyjuniorcollege@yahoo.com](mailto:wesleyjuniorcollege@yahoo.com)) on your correspondence, as they are the COBEC representatives on the College Fair Committee.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

The BTOO Education Expo Committee invites your institution to promote information about:

1. *Pre-requisite level of studies; application process and deadlines; registration process, etc.*
2. *Education programs offered and unique working relationships with specific junior colleges or universities in Belize that allow for enrollment and transfer of credits from the Belizean institution to the American institution .*
3. *Scholarships (work, sports, alumni, etc.) and other financial support specific to your tertiary institution.*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE NEWS:  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE (CCI) PROGRAM  
COMMEMORATES 10 YEARS WITH NEW PUBLICATION**

**STL NEWS**  
STATES TOP LEADING NEWS

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Community College Initiative (CCI) Program is commemorating its first ten years with a publication, "Community College Initiative Program: The First Ten Years," that shares the successes and impacts of the program since its creation and is available through our implementing partner, the Northern Virginia Community College, [here](#).

Established to expand opportunities for international exchange among participants from underserved and underrepresented groups, the CCI Program provides international participants with a non-degree academic experience at U.S. community colleges. Community colleges serve nearly half of Americans pursuing higher education. Through classroom, campus, and community engagement, U.S. and international peers have the opportunity to expand their perspectives,

build skills to succeed in the global workforce, and develop friendships and networks that will last a lifetime.

International participants build technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency before returning home to share what they have learned with others in their home countries.

In its first ten years, the CCI Program has hosted more than 2,800 participants from 21 countries. This month, the CCI Program is welcoming its next cohort of 146 students who will study at 10 community college campuses in the United States during the 2018-2019 academic year.

The Community College Initiative Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State and is administered by Northern Virginia Community College on behalf of the Community College Consortium. To learn more about the Community College Initiative Program and read the report, visit the CCI website. For further information, please contact the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at [eca-press@state.gov](mailto:eca-press@state.gov).

Written by: WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of State

Web link: <https://www.stl.news/u-s-department-state-news-community-college-initiative-cci-program-commemorates-10-years-new-publication/148841/>



## Visionary Leadership Meets Tenacity and Commitment

*Written by Guy Ilagan, PHD, The Citadel*



Most readers of the COBEC newsletter know of Dr. Eve Aird. She is the provost of Galen University and she has the heart of those learner-centered educators that shaped our lives and remain in our fondest memories. While executive leadership is filled with challenges, she makes it look easy. Dr. Aird has a kind way with her faculty and staff at Galen University, yet her high expectations for them are very clear. She works long hours, is committed to family and friendships, her community, promoting education and well-being, and contributing to the ongoing development of Belize.

In late 2016, Dr. Aird spoke with her COBEC colleagues of her deep concerns for youth suicide in Belize. By summer of 2017 her vision for equipping social service personnel in Belize with suicide prevention skills was well underway. By early 2017, Dr. Aird engaged her COBEC allies for facilitators, received a small grant from COBEC, and gathered necessary funding from her university, The Citadel (US), and the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation, and Poverty Alleviation.

Overall, according to available statistics, suicide rates in Belize are less than half of those for the US. However, Dr. Aird noticed the alarming trend of youth suicide in Belize. She was right to be concerned. In the US, persons aged 45-56 compose the highest risk group for suicide. In Belize, teens and young adults were becoming the age-range of highest risk for suicide.

While data showed two suicides per month in Belize, Dr. Aird wasted no time in implementing her vision. As you can imagine, her project would require funding, collaboration, and complex logistics. For Dr. Aird, these obstacles became mere details.

To date, Dr. Aird's vision, focus, and action have resulted in 11 two-day suicide prevention trainings, in all six districts of Belize, and to 247 professionals. The trainings rely heavily on practice and are offered at basic and intermediate levels. Four of the 11 trainings were at the intermediate level. Participants have included social workers, teachers, counselors, professors, police, hospital personnel, employees in group foster care and youth hostels, military, and clergy. The participants' evaluations of the workshops have been overwhelmingly positive and reveal excitement and gratitude for the trainings.

The project is ongoing and Dr. Aird continues to orchestrate a small network of dedicated professionals who manage this project and its many moving parts, including ongoing refinement of the trainings. She operates in the background, without ego, like an ocean current. She is nothing short of a force of will. Dr. Aird was interviewed at length about the suicide prevention endeavors on a popular news program and the work has been featured in 13 news items in Belize. Where she has had every opportunity to showcase her accomplishment, she chose to showcase the problem. The problem of suicide. Let's give her the acknowledgement that she deserves but has artfully avoided.



## CJC/BPCC COBEC Partnership Brings a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Award

**B**ossier Parish Community College recently learned that its Fulbright proposal to fund Corozal Jr. College's Dr. Sandra Carballo as a visiting scholar on BPCC's campus has been given the green light. Dr. Carballo and BPCC's Allison Martin worked together to design and write the Fulbright proposal, with great help from CJC's Marlon Brown, solid advice from Valdosta's Ivan Nikolov and UNG's Andy Novobilski, and letters of support from throughout the COBEC community. Dr. Carballo will visit BPCC's campus toward the end of the 2020 academic year.

During her stay, Dr. Carballo will teach Composition and Rhetoric courses and partner with BPCC's English faculty and Administration staff to move forward on a pilot co-enrollment course. As a Scholar-in-Residence, she'll get the added cultural perspective of Louisiana festival season, where Louisiana's food, music, and hospitality are top priority. Carballo and Martin hope to recap the experience during COBEC's 2020 summer conference.



*Written by Allison Martin,  
Bossier Parish Community College*



### STAY CONNECTED

Visit [www.COBEC.org](http://www.COBEC.org) to stay connected with news, updates, and events.

Contact Dr. Rick Bateman, Jr. at [rbateman@bpcc.edu](mailto:rbateman@bpcc.edu) for news-related events, questions, or concerns.



## 2019 Winter Conference

### Registration Form

I am planning to attend the 2019 COBEC Winter conference hosted by San Pedro Junior College on February 7 and 8, 2019.

*Kindly register by December 31, 2018*

#### Participant's Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Fees:

Please check one:

##### Full Members

\$150 USD

\$150 BZ

##### Associate Members

\$150 USD

\$150 BZ

##### Non-Members

\$125 USD

\$125 BZ

##### Emeritus

\$62 USD

\$62 BZ

You can pay by cash or cheque on-site. Please address your cheque to "San Pedro Junior College".

**Transportation:**

Please indicate below whether you will need assistance with ground transportation in San Pedro:

- I will need transportation to and from hotel
- I will not need transportation

**Food/Food Restrictions:**

I have the following food restrictions and/or food allergies.

- I am a vegetarian
- I do not eat pork
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\*We will assume you do not have any food restriction if you do not choose one of the above.

Please return this registration form by December 31, 2018 by email to [spjuniorcollege.bze@gmail.com](mailto:spjuniorcollege.bze@gmail.com)

**Event after the Conference (Saturday, February 9, 2019).**

Snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef (Mexico Rocks). Free of cost (courtesy of SPJC). Time 9a.m. to 12noon. Kindly indicate below whether you will take part.

- Yes
- No



Greetings COBEC Partners

The following are Hotels we are recommending for you all to book for the COBEC Conference next year  
7 Feb - 8 Feb 2019.

1. Banyan Bay Suites (Sleeps up to 4 persons)

**2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms Pool View Suites - US\$253.30 plus 14% tax per night**

**2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms Beachfront Suites - US\$339.15 plus 14% tax per night**

2. Grand Colony

**2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms Pool View Suites - US\$327.25 plus 14% tax per night**

3. Caribbean Villas Hotel

**Deluxe Standard Rooms 2 Twin beds or 1 King – US \$100 plus 14% tax per night**

The following are Golf Cart companies that will be providing a special discounted rate for you  
all on those dates as well for \$50 US per day.

1. Jaguars Golf Cart Rental
2. Polos Golf Cart Rental
3. Time-Out Golf Cart Rental