

SAGICOR CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING AT CAVE HILL CAMPUS



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Cave Hill Campus after the signing of the MOU with Dr Patricia Downes-Grant, President & CEO, Sagikor Life Inc

Sagikor has had a long and outstanding relationship with the University of the West Indies (UWI), and recently, Sagikor Life Inc made a commitment of a financial contribution of BDS\$2,000,000, the largest single gift made by a locally based private benefactor to the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

Dr Patricia Downes-Grant, President and CEO of Sagikor Life Inc, signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus.

Sir Hilary lauded Sagikor for its tangible support to UWI over the years. "Sagikor," he said, "has adopted and adapted the Cave Hill Campus of the University, and that is evident in the many physical changes to the Campus that have taken place because of their gifts over the years.

"Our most recent collaboration with Sagikor has been financial support of Bds\$1,000,000, for the Sagikor Cricket Operations and Research Enterprise (SCORE) at the 3Ws Oval, which includes the Walk of Fame, the Indoor Cricket School and the Cricket Library and Research Centre. As a result of this contribution, the Campus has been able to establish a cricket ground that is up to world-class standard and had the distinction of hosting teams during the World Cup matches."

Sir Hilary listed the several other projects which Sagikor has funded over the years. These include Scholarships to the faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law; sponsorship of the Humanities Festival of the Faculty of Humanities; and the Sagikor UWI Cricket Team and, perhaps the most long-lasting association between Sagikor and the University, support to the Chronic Disease Research Centre, a project of the School of Clinical Medicine and Research.

Dr Pat Downes-Grant said, "Sagikor Life Inc wholeheartedly supports the national development goal of having one tertiary level graduate per household in Barbados, by the year 2010. We also recognize that in order to achieve this, The Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies must have the necessary resources to do so. UWI currently has a student population of 8000, a number, we understand, that is rapidly increasing. This means that the University's physical plant will be under significant pressure to provide not just adequate, but well equipped teaching space to accommodate its growing campus population.

"We wish to acknowledge that under the entrepreneurship of Sir Hilary, the Cave Hill Campus has formed strategic alliances with the private sector to achieve this goal.

"We at Sagikor Life Inc are committed to being an outstanding corporate citizen. We provide financial services that create value for Customers, generate excellent returns to Shareholders and provide the highest quality of work life and the opportunity for personal and professional development of our Employees. All of those we acknowledge are important, but we are convinced that how we relate to our communities will ultimately define who we are. That is why our relationship with the community is enshrined in our Vision, *To be a great company committed to improving the lives of the people in the communities in which we operate.*

“As a consequence, we at Sagicor Life, and indeed the entire Sagicor Group, share a common goal with this venerable institution, the University of the West Indies, to help improve the lives of the people in our communities.

“We strongly believe that social investment is at the heart of wealth creation and wealth protection. Support to SCORE was our largest single contribution to a University project, one million Barbados dollars. Through this Memorandum of Understanding, we will be making an even larger contribution, two million Barbados dollars to the Cave Hill Campus, to support outfitting and ongoing maintenance of a new teaching complex at the University. This new complex will be named the **Sagicor Centre for Lifelong Learning**.

“The **Sagicor Centre for Lifelong Learning**, will have 9 lecture rooms, each with a seating capacity from 20 to 130, and a computer laboratory for 42 stations. It will be dedicated to undergraduate teaching, through the use of modern educational technology.

“We did not hesitate to sponsor this project because our business is based on long-term relationships with our communities, employees, customers and shareholders. With all these relationships, we want to ensure that we are truly able to improve peoples lives, now and into the future. Our approach to financial risk recognizes the need to be prudent, to maintain the trust of our communities and to satisfy their requirements over time. Sagicor offers the commitment not only to make partnerships, but to sustain them for generations, much like the Sagicor Centre for Lifelong Learning, which will be here on the grounds of UWI for many many years to come, serving the students of our communities, satisfying their learning requirements over the years.”



Above - The Sagicor Centre for Lifelong Learning at Cave Hill Campus.

Below - (L-R) Dr Jeannine Comma, SFC and SLI Director, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Dr Pat Downes-Grant and Philip Osborne, Group Financial Officer.

