



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF THE  
WEST INDIES



**The PJ Patterson Institute for  
Africa Caribbean Advocacy**



## **Strengthening Co-operation between African and Caribbean States**

Educational Transformation in Africa and the Caribbean:  
Centring African Heritage and Identity

**Thursday, 13th February 2025**

JOIN US IN-PERSON AT **The UWI Regional Headquarters**

**9:00 a.m.–3:45 p.m. (JA) | 10:00 a.m.–4:45 p.m. (EC)**

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## ABOUT US

The PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy was established in 2020 by The University Council on the recommendation of Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles. Named in honour of Statesman-in-Residence The Most Hon. PJ Patterson, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Institute is committed to the mandate of focussing on opportunities for Africa, CARICOM and the African Diaspora to confront common challenges, strengthen historical and cultural ties and build economic bridges.

The Institute's objectives include:

- Assisting in developing the framework for the co-ordination of public advocacy and development partnering between the Caribbean and Africa;
- Developing a programme of work to engage with the full range of UWI academics and pertinent research from scholars in the diaspora for the production of a strategic framework for African-Caribbean Co-operation and action;
- Promoting, encouraging and facilitating a fertile exchange of cultural groups, artists, scholars, entertainers, athletes, and sportspersons to build the ties between Africa, the Caribbean and our diaspora;
- Supporting the quest for reparative justice, the fight against racism and discrimination to achieve economic and social empowerment for people of colour.

## The Symposium: *Educational Transformation in Africa and the Caribbean: Centring African Heritage and Identity*

This symposium is driven by the ideas that underpin the Global Africa Agenda, in particular, the imperative to educate Africa, the Caribbean and the wider African diaspora regarding the need to learn about each other and reestablish historical ties, so as to embrace our shared identity and cultural heritage. Central to the achievement of this agenda is attentiveness to transforming educational systems for the creation of new approaches and pedagogies for the re-imagination of traditional curricula. This will include new foci that will centre African cultural heritage, promote greater awareness of both Africa and the Caribbean, ensure academic success, economic development and independent identities that will help to create a better future for Global Africa.

During this symposium, presenters from Africa and the Caribbean, including scholars, researchers and policy-makers will discuss ideas, share experiences, perspectives and best practices about how effective transformations can be made to the educational systems of Africa and the Caribbean to shape minds through a wider focus on African identity and heritage, and renewed determination. This is intended to promote growth and development through the connections with each other, while not overlooking new concepts such as developments in digital technology, including AI. The indispensable voice of the student to this process of transformation will be represented by a group of students who have been invited to express their views, desires and the need for their futures to be secured through the tertiary-level education they receive. The symposium will be presented in hybrid mode.

# Presenters



**Professor Benedict Okey Oramah**  
President and Chairman,  
Board of Directors  
African Export-Import Bank



**Professor Sir Hilary Beckles**  
Vice-Chancellor  
The University of the West Indies



**Professor Densil Williams**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Principal  
The University of the West Indies



**The Most Honourable PJ Patterson**  
Statesman-In-Residence



**Professor Alan Cobley**  
Former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, OBUS  
Retired Professor of South African  
and Comparative History  
The University of the West Indies,  
Cave Hill



**Professor David Norris**  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Botswana



**Ms Sandra Maynard**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor  
Office of Global Affairs  
The University of the West Indies  
and President and CEO ISDJ



**Professor Canute Thompson**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, OBUS  
Office of the Vice-Chancellor  
The University of the West Indies



**Dr Eduardo Ali**  
Pro-Registrar and Deputy CEO  
Caribbean Examinations Council



**Professor Paulette A. Ramsay**  
Professor of Afro-Hispanic Studies  
Research Fellow  
The PJ Patterson Institute,  
The University of the West Indies



**Professor Alpheus Mogomme Masoga**  
Dean, Faculty of the Humanities  
University of Free State,  
South Africa



**Professor Orlando Patterson**  
Professor of History  
and Sociology,  
Harvard University



**Professor Carmel Roofe**  
School of Education,  
The University of Free State,  
Mona



**Dr Daniel Fokum**  
HOD, Department of  
Computer Science  
The University of the West Indies,  
Mona



**Dr Bolajebu Agboola**  
Senior Lecturer  
School of Education,  
The University of the West Indies,  
Mona



**Dr Hopelin Hines**  
Head of Group HR  
National Commercial Bank  
Jamaica Limited



**Professor Rupert Lewis**  
Emeritus Professor, Political Thought,  
Department of Government  
The University of the West Indies,  
Mona



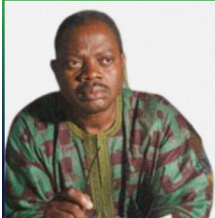
**Mr Perry Cummings Jr**  
Guild Council President  
Student, Political Science,  
Gender Studies - Minor  
The University of the West Indies,  
Mona



**Ms Bianca Smith**  
Student, Spanish & Linguistics  
The University of the West Indies,  
Mona



**Ms Ashley Hunter**  
Student, Spanish &  
International Relations  
The University of the West Indies,  
Mona



**Chief Rapporteur**  
**Professor John Bewaji**  
Emeritus Professor of Philosophy  
The University of the West Indies



**Ms Jessica Forrester**  
Student, Spanish & French  
The University of the West Indies, Mona

# Strengthening Co-operation between African and Caribbean States

## Opening Session

### ***Educational Transformation in Africa and the Caribbean: Centring African Heritage and Identity***

**9:00 a.m.–11:40 a.m.: Welcome and Opening Statement**

**Professor Paulette A. Ramsay**, Research Fellow, the PJ Patterson Institute, The UWI, Chair

#### **Session I Part A: *Bridging the Continent, Shaping Minds: African Identity in Education for Global Africa***

- **Dr Benedict Okey Oramah President**, *AFREXIM Bank*  
“Ensuring the Growth and Development of Africa through Education”
- **The Most Honourable PJ Patterson**, *Statesman-in-Residence*  
“The PJ Patterson Institute in the Debate about African Identity in Education for the Global African Diaspora.”
- **Professor Sir Hilary Beckles**, *Vice-Chancellor, The UWI*  
“Reclaiming Narratives: African Identity and the Decolonisation of Education in Africa and the Caribbean.”

#### **Session I Part B: *Growth and Development: Revolutionising African and Caribbean Minds for Economic Success***

- **Professor Densil Williams**, *Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI, Mona*  
“Ensuring the Growth and Development of the Caribbean through Education”
- **Professor David Norris**, *Vice-Chancellor, The University of Botswana*,  
“Education as the Path to Economic Success in Africa and the Caribbean”
- **Professor Rupert Lewis**, *Emeritus Professor of Black Political Thought, The UWI, Professor, Institute for Pan-African Thought & Conversation, University of Johannesburg*  
“Marcus Garvey’s Pedagogy”

#### **10:35 a.m.–12:20 p.m.: Session II: *Beyond the Textbook: The Integration of African Heritage into Modern Curricula: Best Practices in Curriculum Development***

**Moderator – Professor Alan Cobley**, Professor of History, The UWI, Cave Hill, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Board of Undergraduate Studies, The UWI

- **Professor Orlando Patterson**, *Professor of History and Sociology, Harvard University, USA*  
“Transforming the Curriculum for the Empowerment of Caribbean Youth”
- **Professor Alpheus Mogomme Masoga**, *Dean, Faculty of the Humanities, University of Free State, South Africa*  
“Transformation of Teacher Training and Professional Development for the Education of Africa”

- **Professor Carmel Roofe**, *Professor of Curriculum Studies, School of Education, The University of the West Indies, Mona*  
“Toward the Development of Anti-Colonial Educational Systems for the Caribbean”
- **Mr Perry Cummings**, *Guild President, The UWI, Mona;*  
**Miss Ashley Hunter; Bianca Smith; and Jessica Forrester**, *Students, The UWI*  
“Building our Future, Transforming our Lives Through University Education”

### Discussion Session

**BREAK: 12:20-1:00 p.m. (Refreshments will be served)**

### 1:00–2:50 p.m. – Session III: *Modalities for Transformation*

**Moderator – Professor Canute Thompson**, *Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies, The UWI*

- **Dr Bolapeju Mary Agboola**, *Senior Lecturer, School of Education, The UWI, Mona*  
“The Role of the Community in Educating African and Caribbean Students in the 21st Century”
- **Dr Daniel Fokum**, *Head of the Department of Computer Science, The UWI, Mona*  
“A High School Camp on Algorithms and Coding in Small Island Developing States”
- **Ms Sandra Maynard**, *Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Office of Global Affairs, The UWI, Regional Headquarters and President and CEO, ISDJ*  
“Funding and Resource Mobilisation for Educational Projects”
- **Dr Hopelin Hines**, *Vice-President of Human Resources at NCB Jamaica Limited*  
“Educating the Youth of Africa and the Caribbean for the World of Work”

### Discussion Session

### CLOSING SESSION

**2:50 p.m.–3:05 p.m.: Closing Remarks:**

**Speaker: Dr Eduardo Ali**, *Pro-Registrar and Deputy CEO, Caribbean Examinations Council*

## Presenters' Biographies

**Professor Benedict Oramah** is Professor of International Trade and Finance from Adeleke University, Nigeria. He was appointed to the position of Executive Vice President of the AFREXIM Bank in October 2008, a position he held until he was appointed President in June 2015. Professor Oramah has published a book, *Foundations of Structured Trade Finance*, and has written over 30 articles on a range of African economic and trade-related matters, many of which have been published in leading international journals.

**Vice-Chancellor, Professor Hilary Beckles** is a distinguished academic, international thought leader, United Nations committee official, and global public activist in the field of social justice and minority empowerment. Educated at the University of Hull, Sir Hilary is a Director of SAGICOR Financial Corporation PLC, the largest financial company in the Caribbean region, Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), the former Chairman of The University of the West Indies Press, Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Commission on Reparation and Social Justice, Immediate Past President of Universities Caribbean, an Editor of the UNESCO General History of Africa series and a Director of the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre.

**Professor Densil Williams** is a renowned academic in the field of Business and Management. He is a Professor of International Business, former Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, and also the former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Industry/Academic Partnerships and Planning at The UWI. Professor Williams has led several transformational initiatives in administrative processes, research and innovation, and teaching and learning at The UWI. The various initiatives led the university to greatly improve its financial performance and an increased public profile. Professor Williams has built a career in business and academe for over 22 years. He has a remarkable record of public service, research, and scholarly publications and serves on several boards of state entities and private sector organisations, and committees, as well as regional and international Editorial Boards.

**Professor Rupert Lewis** is Emeritus Professor in Political Thought in the Department of Government, at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. He is a prolific scholar who has published several works on the Garvey Movement and Black Radicalism. Professor Lewis is also a member of the Jamaica National Council on Reparations and was the first Research fellow at the PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy.

**The Most Honourable PJ Patterson** is a Caribbean statesman who has dedicated over six decades to fostering social and economic transformation in Jamaica, the Caribbean, and the African Diaspora. Mr. Patterson holds an honours degree in English from The University of the West Indies and a law degree from the London School of Economics. Mr. Patterson is a former Prime Minister of Jamaica and in retirement, he continues his advocacy as the Statesman-in-Residence at the PJ Patterson Institute for Africa Caribbean Advocacy at The University of the West Indies, focusing on fostering collaboration between Africa and the Caribbean. He is also the author of *My Political Journey*, a celebrated memoir.

**Professor Alan Cobley** is retired Professor of South African and Comparative History at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. His research interests include South African history in the twentieth century, African diasporic history and comparative history of Africa and the Caribbean. He is the author, editor or co-editor of thirteen books, and has written numerous articles and book chapters and several technical reports. At present, he is a member of the CXC Special Governance Review Committee and the Rhodes Commonwealth Caribbean Scholarship Committee, 2025.

**Professor David Norris** is the sixth Vice-Chancellor of the University of Botswana. Professor Norris holds a PhD Degree in Quantitative Genetics and Animal Breeding from Michigan State University, an MSc in Animal Science from the University of Reading and a BSc from the University of Botswana. He is a renowned scholar who has published widely in various journals. His notable strengths are in Innovative Teaching and Learning; Curriculum Development

and Review; Research Development and Innovation; Higher Education Administration and Management; Change Management, Process Management and Strategic Leadership; with a notable record in research collaboration and research funding.

**Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sandra Maynard** has been a qualified Barrister-at-Law since 1998 and has practised both privately (domestically and internationally) and for the United Kingdom's Crown Prosecution Service. She has held senior leadership and management roles within UK Universities across the sectors of law, business, and university group subsidiaries both nationally and regionally. She has also managed multi-disciplinary and multifunctional teams through globally disruptive changes such as BREXIT and COVID-19. She is currently President and CEO of the ISDJ.

**Professor Canute Thompson** is Professor of Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies at the University of the West Indies. He holds a PhD in Educational Administration and Leadership, a postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from The UWI, as well as a Master of Arts degree in Moral Philosophy and Biblical Studies from Eden Theological Seminary. He has published widely in the field of transformational leadership and educational policy.

**Dr Eduardo Ali** is Pro-Registrar and Deputy CEO of CXC. He manages the Western Zone Office in Jamaica and the Research and Educational Development Division. He also leads public policy discourse, educational transformation initiatives and regional and international partnerships. A Commonwealth and Fulbright Scholar, Dr Ali holds a PhD in Education in Educational Policy Studies and an MSc in Educational Leadership. He has held senior roles within The University of the West Indies, the Council of Legal Education and private educational institutions. Dr Ali has strategically engaged regional research, and educational networks in CARICOM, the United Nations and Commonwealth development projects for two decades.

**Professor Paulette A. Ramsay** has a record of distinguished pioneering research and scholarly publications for which she has gained wide recognition as an interdisciplinary scholar and researcher in the Caribbean region and internationally, for her work in the broad fields of Modern Languages and Literatures, and Writing/Language Pedagogy. She is recognised for her contribution to the growth of the field of Afro-Hispanic Studies, and her impressive contribution to the creation and expansion of knowledge about African-derived people and their literary and cultural production in the Hispanic world. She is also an accomplished writer of creative works - prose fiction and poetry.

**Professor Alpheus Mogomme Masoga** is Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of the Free State, South Africa. He is an acclaimed researcher and has maintained a coherent research trajectory in indigenous knowledge systems and decolonial studies. He has an excellent research publication record within the broad area of oral history, Africanism, and indigenous knowledge system studies. He has established several research projects and also produced single and co-authored articles.

**Professor Orlando Patterson** is a historical and cultural sociologist and is John Cowles Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of the West Indies, his alma mater, and the London School of Economics where he received his PhD. His academic interests include the culture and practices of freedom; the comparative study of slavery and ethno-racial relations; and the cultural sociology of poverty and underdevelopment with special reference to the Caribbean and African American youth. He has also written on the cultural sociology of sports, especially the game of cricket. Professor Patterson is the author of numerous academic papers and 6 major academic books including, *Slavery and Social Death* (1982); *Freedom in the Making of Western Culture* (1991); *The Ordeal of Integration* (1997); and *The Cultural Matrix: Understanding Black Youth* (2015).

**Dr Carmel Roofe** is Professor of Curriculum Studies in the School of Education, and Programme Coordinator for Graduate programmes in Curriculum Studies at The University of the West Indies, Mona. She has served as a consultant with the World Bank and the Ministry of Education, Jamaica, and as a resource person for the Commonwealth of Learning. She is the co-founder and current president of the Caribbean Association for the Advancement of

Curriculum Studies and the Coordinator of the Association of Graduate Researchers in Education (AGRE). She conducts research in the areas of teacher education, curriculum theory and practice, and school leadership. She has authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed journal articles, books and book chapters.

**Dr Daniel Fokum** is a Senior Lecturer in Computer Science and Head of the Department of Computing at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica. He received his Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from The University of Kansas (KU) in 2010 and is a member of the IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Communication Society, and the ACM. He has published widely in the field of Computer Science in several important international and regional journals.

**Dr Bolapeju Agboola** hold Masters and PhD degrees in Educational Management and Planning. Dr Agboola is a certified online learning assessor, trainer, programme developer, educational consultant and career educator, with experience as a classroom teacher, principal, and University Lecturer spanning over 30 years. She is currently a Senior Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. Prior to her appointment at The UWI, she was a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Planning at the University of Uyo, and a part time facilitator with the National Open University in Nigeria. She is a scholar, researcher, examiner, editor, co-editor, and reviewer of both refereed journals and edited books. Her research interests include educational planning, policy development, leadership development and educational management.

**Dr Hopelin Hines** is a seasoned HR professional and serves as Head of the Group Human Resources Division at the National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited. She has over twenty years of working experience in the manufacturing and financial sectors in Jamaica, supporting leaders and employees at all levels.

**Mr Perry Cummings Jr** is the President of the Guild of Students for the Academic year 2024/2025 at The UWI Mona Campus. He is a final-year student pursuing Political Science with a minor in Gender Studies.

**Ms Bianca Smith** is a third-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Spanish with a minor in Linguistics. She enjoys learning languages and speaks five at varying levels; Jamaican Creole, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Turkish.

**Ms Ashley Hunter** is a third-year student pursuing a double major in Spanish and International Relations. Her participation in co-curricular activities includes being Vice President of the Digital Media and Animation Club, Peer Career Advisor for the University's Placement and Career Services and a member of Taylor Hall's chorale.

**Ms Jessica Forrester** is a final-year student pursuing a double major in Spanish and French. She is a lover of foreign languages and serves as the president of La Société Francophile. She sees creativity as an integral part of expressing herself.

## Rapporteur

**Professor John Ayotunde (Tunde) Isola Bewaji**, is the first Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at The University of the West Indies, Mona. He is a former Visiting Research Fellow, at Rhodes University (2022) and has been visiting scholar of several universities in the USA and Africa. He is currently a Research Fellow, at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa and a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Cultural Studies, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He has published many scholarly articles and books in his field.



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