

NCPD FACILITATES TWO DAY TVET MAINSTREAMING WORKSHOP IN GUYANA

TVET Council of Guyana invites NCPD to share its expertise

The Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) of Guyana invited the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities to facilitate a two day workshop on the integration of persons with disabilities into mainstream TVET institutions. Dr. Beverly Beckles, Chief Executive Officer, and Mrs. Sonya LeMaitre-Jackson, HR Consultant of the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities facilitated the session which was held on March 31st – April 1st, 2016 at the National Centre for Educational Resource Development, Georgetown, Guyana.

The Council for TVET's mandate includes ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to technical and vocational education and training and receive the support required to facilitate their effective education and training. Their research showed that in the past few years, very few persons with disabilities have been admitted in the TVET programmes. Therefore the Council decided to address this issue and host the workshop with administrators of TVET institutions.

The training session comprised of two parts:

1. Sensitisation Training: included discussion on visible and invisible disabilities, challenges faced by persons with disabilities, disability etiquette, understanding that persons with disabilities can learn
2. Integrating Training: included discussion on inclusion in the classroom, different teaching methods and strategies, assistive technologies, accommodation, low cost adaptations

The workshop also provided information on the impact of the legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities and provided a clearer understanding of training as opposed to education.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the administrators present gave their commitment to making the necessary policy changes within their organisations and the adjustments necessary for persons with disabilities to be in the classroom. The administrators indicated their desire to create an online community of practise among themselves and NCPD to share resources and experiences among each other.

One administrator present indicated that she was *“impressed how enlightening and effective the training was in creating deeper sensitisation of integrated learning for persons with disabilities and looked forward to working to rule out discrimination of persons with disabilities.”*

The Council has already begun to plan the second phase of this initiative.

NCPD was happy to once again facilitate this initiative as it has been working with Guyana and the wider English speaking Caribbean on promoting integrated training of persons with disabilities since 1999.

ABOUT NCPD

NCPD is a non-governmental agency (NGO) which promotes equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities through training, information, research and consultative services. For more information on the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities, please visit our website, www.ncpdt.org, or contact us by telephone at 652-4880 or via email at ncpd1@hotmail.com.

Photos:



Photo 1: Left to right- Dr. Beverly Beckles, CEO, NCPD and Mr. Jerry Simpson, Senior TVET Officer, Council for TVET



Photo 2: Cross section of some administrators participating in the workshop