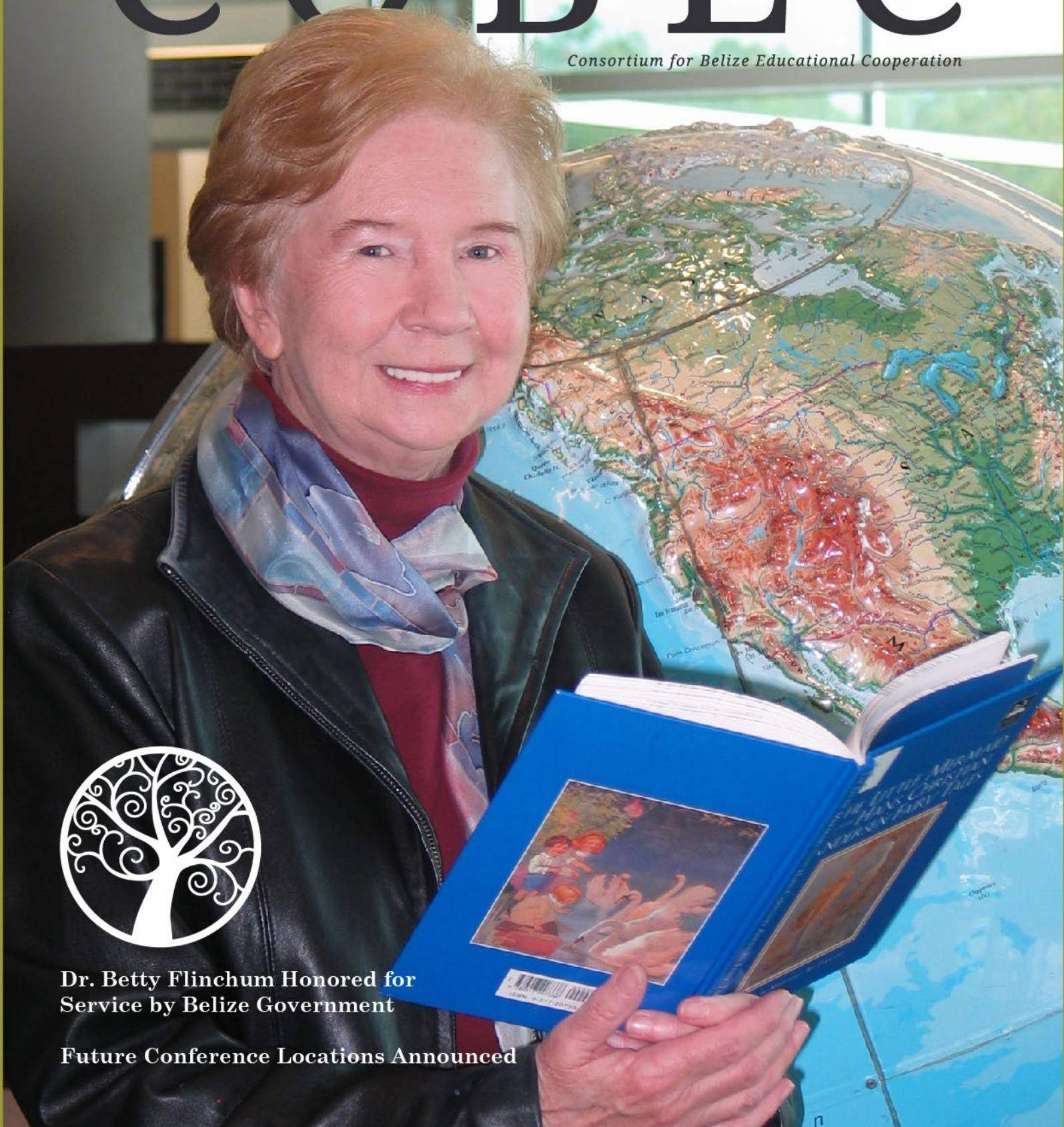


COBEC

Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation



Dr. Betty Flinchum Honored for Service by Belize Government

Future Conference Locations Announced

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*“Celebrating 30 Years of Partnership,
Collaboration, and a Strong Foundation for
Assuring Quality in Education”*

WESLEY JUNIOR COLLEGE

Belize City

February 1- 2, 2018

January 31: College Fair and CAFÉ Workshops

Best Western Belize Biltmore Hotel Conference Room

FUTURE CONFERENCE HOSTS

SUMMER 2018



Bossier Parish Community College
Bossier City, Louisiana
July 25-27, 2018

WINTER 2019



San Pedro Junior College

SUMMER 2019

UNF UNIVERSITY of
NORTH FLORIDA.
University of North Florida



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. BETTY FLINCHUM

ORDER OF DISTINCTION RECIPIENT

COBEC CO-FOUNDER RECEIVES HIGH HONOR

UNF Professor Emerita Honored for Service by Belize Government

Dr. Betty Flinchum, Professor Emerita of Curriculum and Instruction in the University of North Florida's College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), was presented with the Order of Distinction, a high honor by the government of Belize. Flinchum is the first ever non-Belizean citizen to receive the honor.

Flinchum was recognized in a formal Tribute to Belizean Patriots ceremony on September 14 for giving years of service to the country, in supporting educational programs and facilitating a process where more than 500 Belizean nationals have been able to earn degrees from the University. In attendance at the presentation was a large group of alumni, coworkers, junior college presidents, deans and friends.

"This tribute has given me the greatest joy imaginable," said Flinchum. "I am sincerely grateful to all my former students, colleagues, Belizeans friends and families, to the Belize government and to all the Belizean people for this great honor and the privilege to work with

this country for more than 30 years. I felt humbled to be among those honored and, as receiving my honor, I felt truly Belizean."

Flinchum served for 32 years as a professor of education and director of International Programs at UNF, now called the International Center. As a founding faculty member, she initiated and developed the University's international programs, which included the establishment of study-abroad programs, international student programs, faculty linkages and exchanges with numerous countries. During her tenure there, UNF's international student body grew to include young scholars from over 100 foreign countries.

On her retirement, she was elected as a Professor Emerita; an honor and high distinction for retired faculty at the University. She initiated a government-funded international program between the University and Belize in 1986, founding the Consortium on Belize Educational Cooperation, and she currently continues to consult with the University on this project and in other areas of international outreach.

According to the program from the Belizean Office of the Prime Minister, "There are hundreds of Belizean professionals whose lives have been positively

impacted and changed forever by Dr. Betty Flinchum. Her sterling contribution is through her personal commitment and dedication to Belize's development."

In the early part of her career, she taught in university positions related to the areas of movement education; motor development of young children and teacher education. As her academic career progressed, she served in university administrative positions for the main part of her career and focused on international education and international development. Flinchum had a distinguished career in education as a teacher, professor, director and administrator in several universities.

A few of her notable awards are the Lifetime Achievement Award in International Development given by the City of Jacksonville for her significant work toward making Jacksonville an international city; the International Development Award for distinguished service to UNF; and the Honorary Alumna Award for her devotion to students and initiating/developing the University's international program.

In addition to her professional career, Flinchum has been involved in several philanthropic endeavors. During her tenure at UNF, she gave the initial monies to establish two scholarships, the Sir Colville Young Endowed Scholarship/Fellowship for Belizeans who wish to study education, and the Ellis F. White Founding

Faculty Endowed Scholarship/Fellowship for need-based students in COEHS.

Flinchum volunteers as an international programing consultant for educational institutions in the United States and abroad and continues to provide custom-designed international tours for individual and group travel. Her most recent writing project "A Cultural Legacy: Sir Colville Norbert Young, GCMG, MBE, and D.Phil. Governor-General of Belize" was published in 2008 and is an authorized biography of a prominent Belizean colleague and friend.

Flinchum earned her bachelor's degree at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina in 1957; her Master's in Education from University of North Carolina in 1962; and a philosophy doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1972.

UNF, a nationally ranked university located on an environmentally beautiful campus, offers students who are dedicated to enriching the lives of others the opportunity to build their own futures through a well-rounded education.

*Submitted by
Amanda Dawson
Public Relations Specialist
University of North Florida*

COBEC MEMBERS send warm congratulations to Dr. Betty Flinchum who was honored with Belize's Order of Distinction at the Bliss Institute.

Betty has been a champion and continues to be for Education in Belize. We are grateful for the doors she has opened for us and the love that she has selflessly shared with us. Congratulations on a well-deserved award!

My sincere congrats to Emeritus Professor B. Flinchum on her achievements and contributions to Belize. I wish her the best in the future and look forward to engaging her some time soon.

*Best, Clem
Professor Emeritus Clement Sankat Ph.D, C.Eng
President, University of Belize*

Betty, It was my great pleasure to meet you at an earlier COBEC meeting. Congratulations on this outstanding and well deserved award. Every COBEC member stands on your tall shoulders. We all do our best to emulate the fine work you did to bring our countries together and improve conditions for all people.

*I want to thank you on behalf of
Bridgewater State University, Lisa Battaglino*

Dear Betty, Congratulations on this most deserved recognition for ALL that you have done for Belize and Belizeans for decades now. You are truly a magnanimous human being who has touched the lives of so many. It has been my honor and pleasure to know and interact with you through COBEC and personally as well. May God continue to shower you with His abundant blessings.

*Jáne,
P.S. I too wish to be like you when I grow up :).*

Jáne Bennett

Dear Betty, I convey my sincerest Congratulations to you for having received the Belize Order of Distinction, you are truly deserving. Belize is forever grateful for the invaluable contributions you have made to the growth of International Education and a variety of other initiatives in our Jewel over the years. We value your friendship very much.

*God Bless, Ewart Robateau, MSCM
Special Assistant
Inter-institutional Collaboration, International Programs
University of Belize*

Congratulations from Georgia College, Betty!

*All of our best wishes, Eric K. Spears, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President of International Education
Associate Professor of Geography*



WARM CONGRATULATIONS CONTINUE

I met and became friends with this wonderful lady some decades ago when for several years we were the only females attending COBEC and I cherish our friendship. Over the years I have seen Betty's unwavering generosity and love for Belizeans. This Order of Distinction is well deserved.

*Congratulations Betty.
Cynthia Thompson*

Congratulation Dr. Flinchum on receiving the Order of Distinction award of Belize! Thanks for all the valuable work you gave and continue to give Belize in the development of our education system. All the best on behalf of the Belize National Library and Information System (BNLSIS)

*Regards, Lusiola Castillo
Ag. Chief Librarian
Belize National Library Service
and Information System
Leo Bradley Library*

Dear All, I join Dr. Hodge in congratulating Dr. Flinchum (Co-Founder of COBEC and Emeritus Professor at UNF) for receiving the award of "Order of Distinction 2017" on September 14, 2017 at the Bliss Center for the Performing Arts in Belize City.

Marie Young and I, along with other colleagues, represented COBEC and joined a large number of professionals at 4 p.m. (reception) and 7 p.m. (award ceremony) in congratulating Dr. Flinchum for her invaluable service to Belize. It was noted that the majority of the persons managing and administering the delivery of education in Belize are alumni of UNF and/or other COBEC institutions - all beneficiaries of the pioneering work of Dr. Flinchum, Dr. Tracy Harrington, and a few others who were able to operate at a level ahead of their time.

We sincerely acknowledge and thank them for their dream that has become a reality. Dr. Flinchum is so very humble. She remains an inspiration. She accepted her award with grace and care, and as usual, she sends her love to all.

*Sincerely, Karen Martinez
Belize Co-Chair for COBEC &
Dean of Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College*





BETTY FLINCHUM SHARES HER GRATITUDE

Upon returning from Belize, I have been unable to stop thinking about, and sharing with my family, friends and colleagues, that memorable day of September 14th when I received the ORDER OF DISTINCTION, from the nation of Belize. The tribute has given me the greatest joy imaginable.

The Tribute to Belizean Patriots ceremony, sponsored by the National Institute for Culture and History, was a spectacular event. At that evening ceremony, I was proud to share the platform with twenty-one distinguished Belizeans being honored for their meritorious service to the country. I felt humbled to be among them and, at that moment, I felt truly Belizean.

I extend my gratitude to His Excellency, Sir Colville Young, Governor- General of Belize; Honorable Dean Barrow, Prime Minister; Honorable Patrick Faber,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education for the gracious hospitality and splendid occasion. Special thanks to Honorable Patrick Faber for the arrangements and reception before the ceremony, and to the many dear, dear former students, COBEC colleagues, Belizean Ministers and educators, UNF colleagues, and special friends who came to be with me. Throughout that special gathering, I was reminded, so poignantly, of our shared life stories--it was a tearful, loving time that I will never forget and forever cherish.

I am sincerely grateful to all my former students, my COBEC colleagues, my Belizeans friends and families, to the Belize government and to all the Belizean people for this great honor and for the privilege to work with them in their beautiful country for more than thirty years.



Belize Natural Energy (BNE) L-R: Sheba Jackson, Markia Brown, Tarria Simmons, Chelissia Sumbry, BNE's Nicole Woods, Keshun Lawson, Autumn Griffin, Dr. Kathaleena Monds, DeWayne Gurley

STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS VISIT BELIZE

In Belize, Central America the nature of economic markets is seen in the various ways in which people travel, communicate, and engage in commerce. Standing in the center of Burns Avenue in San Ignacio Town, Belize is evidence of the organic order that is created when markets are free; that is, absent government regulations. The presence of street vendors – many of whom are selling the same products or foods – allows the consumer to decide which vendor to support based on two factors – price and quality. Standing in line to wait with others while the vendor prepares for another economic frenzy is essential in understanding the nature of supply and demand and the nature of markets.

What is refreshing is how the absence of regulations allows markets and competition to soar. There are no battles for space to sell goods. Vendors provide tables for setting up and chairs for their customers. The service is fast and the food is both inexpensive (\$1BZ for 3 tacos, 3 granaches, or \$1.50BZ for tamales) and delicious. Repeat vendors at repeat locations create ease of access for the consumer so they are aware and accustomed to finding the items they seek each day. In fact, some service providers like the Belize Shuttle Company, recognize the importance of “competitors working together”. In doing so, the entire economy can thrive and organizations are able to support and supplement the customer experience.

Engaging a group of Business majors in a global experience that allows them to identify how economics, entrepreneurship and information systems are used is an excellent teachable moment for them to explore the Index of Economic Freedom, real-time. Upon arrival on June 11, 2017 students learned about the oil industry via a business meeting hosted by Mrs. Nicole Wood of the Belize Natural Energy (BNE). BNE first discovered oil in Belize in 2005 in the Spanish Lookout Community (a Mennonite community). The presence of BNE contributes to the economy of Belize. Students participating in the program read about BNE prior to departure in “Taking Stock: Belize at 25 years of Independence” by Barbara S. Balboni and Joseph O. Palacio (Editors).

Article continued on next page.



Local entrepreneur selling items to schoolchildren

Each week is met with a new discussion about the economic impact of small to medium size (SMEs) businesses on the local economy. The Saturday Market Day is another excellent example of how “hustle” is demonstrated by local Belizeans who are eager to sell their fresh produce to consumers. Visits to the Xunantunich Mayan Ruins and the Green Iguana Sanctuary topped off the week’s historical and environmental lessons, respectively.



Submitted by
Dr. Kathaleena Edward Monds
 Professor of Information Systems
 Co-Director, Center for Economic
 Education/Small and Minority
 Entrepreneurship
 Belize, Central America Summer 2017



Competition is good for the economy as encouraged by this local entrepreneur.

ENGAGING STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



Small to medium size enterprises (SMEs) in Belize, Central America have a unique opportunity to both boost the economy and serve as a model for other would-be entrepreneurs to follow. Key to the success of any business in the ability to keep expenses low, utilize innovation to surpass the competition, and secure human capital to increase profitability.

Each year the aim of the Belize Study Abroad is to engage students in activities that support four pillars – economics, entrepreneurship, service-learning and internships. Each year brings about a greater understanding of economic freedom and an opportunity for students to demonstrate their applicability of “book knowledge” while interning abroad. What seems to be a common “take away” is a clearer focus on the importance

of international business and how culture, society, history, politics, and people play an important part in the success of business.

Students complete a wide-range of tasks during their internships, ranging from the development of strategic plans to understanding every step of the supply chain in the manufacturing of high-end hot sauce products. The use of information systems and technology helps them to expand their knowledge of how M/S Excel can be used for data analytics and how Adobe Photoshop can be used in Marketing new products and services. This summer, the following Belizean partners have accepted our students as interns during the summer program.

Article continued on next page.



Class Session at Local Library

Hot Mama's Hot Sauce – students assist with the squashing of mangoes that are an essential ingredient to the Mangonero (mangoes + habernaro peppers) sauce. Students also develop a marketing strategy for brand awareness; create a jingle/slogan; conduct and disseminate surveys to obtain feedback from would-be customers (Dewayne Gurley, Senior, Marketing major and Keshun Lawson, Junior, Marketing major). Last year, three ASU students interned at Hot Mama's, including Emberly Clark (Management), Jamarius Willis (Supply Chain) and Elyssa Sims (Management).

Guava Limb Café (owned by Chaa Creek Resort) – students develop a customer loyalty program for locals and international customers in an effort to create an incentive for return and repeat customers (Tarria Simmons, Senior, Marketing majors).



*Keshun Lawson and DeWayne Gurley
Hot Mama's Interns*

Ariston Marketing Company – students assist with the hardware and software requirements needed to maintain the computers used by the network marketing team (Chelissia Sumbry, Junior, Information Systems major; Sheba Jackson, Senior, Information Systems major).

San Ignacio Hotel and Resort – students provide support in helping management convert information from M/S Excel to fit SAGE 50 template, an accounting software. Students assist with Accounts Payable (Autumn Griffin, Junior, Accounting major). In addition, students develop a marketing brand for the Medicinal Trail Tour and are working on a bird watch flyer (Markia Brown, Junior, Marketing major).

In past study abroad programs, other student placements were made at Belize Trade and Investment Development Services (Akintunde Monds-Management major and Raven Burden-Information Systems major), La Loma Luz Hospital (Shakema Hayden and Rashadyya Edge-Healthcare Management majors), and Galen University (Keith Hicks-Management and Andre Steadman-Marketing majors).



*Submitted by
Dr. Kathaleena Edward Monds
Professor of Information Systems
Co-Director, Center for Economic
Education/Small and Minority
Entrepreneurship
Belize, Central America Summer 2017*

To date, the Belize Study Abroad has met the needs of all six disciplines in the College of Business by placing students on global internships. The program coordinator is currently working to develop a 2+2 Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation with Belizean partner institutions.



THE POWER OF ART EDUCATION

Galen University and St. John's College Art Educator, Kirkland Smith, Visits Bossier Parish Community College

As part of a COBEC Mini Grant, professional artist and art educator, Kirkland Smith, visited Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) this October to partner with BPCC faculty member, Associate Professor of Art, Kelly McDade. The two are developing a virtual exchange program between students from BPCC and Galen University.

Kirkland's non-stop schedule included a well-received presentation for students, faculty, and staff entitled "Art is Personal, Art is Social, Art is Human." Kirkland wove into his presentation his own inspirational story about the power of art education, how others helped him along the way, and how he now gives back to the community through a wide variety of art education initiatives.

Along with multiple work sessions to design the exchange curriculum and logistics, Kirkland contributed to multiple classes including 2-D Design, Art for Elementary Education, Art Appreciation, Drawing, and Painting.

Kirkland also met with BPCC Anthropology instructor, Rick Woodward, toured art museums and galleries, met local artists, art educators and tourism leaders, and visited the Renzi Education and Arts Center, a popular children's after-school art program. Kirkland also brought his students' art, as well as his own, which will hang in BPCC's Donna Service Gallery in an exhibition during the spring 2018 semester.



We extend many thanks to COBEC on behalf of Galen University and BPCC for the opportunity to participate in this exciting collaboration!

*Submitted by
Kelly McDade,
Associate Professor of Art,
BPCC Liberal Arts Division*



COBEC-SPONSORED ONLINE COURSE CREATION WORKSHOPS

for Sacred Heart, Independence, and Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior Colleges

Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC) is pleased to partner with Sacred Heart, Independence and Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior Colleges to provide two full-day workshops in best-practice, online course design and creation. Attendees from the three colleges will learn the Brain Science and Metacognitive applications of learning and how those translate into an online learning space. BPCC's online design specialist Allison Martin teaches through project-based learning, so that, through the process of creating their own course modules, participants will learn about intuitive, user-friendly design and how to engage and retain an online audience. Participants will create several learning modules during the session; modules will be immediately available and open for instructors to share (and build upon) for their students.



Two objectives for the workshops are to supply BPCC's free "Open Campus" best-practice online math, English and reading instructional OER resources to help address underprepared students' needs and to supply hands-on professional development in online course creation. Ultimately, BPCC seeks to share resources which will enhance opportunities to meet Belize's higher education learning needs.



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

**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.