



***Independence Junior College***  
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September 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

Dear Members of COBEC,

The Independence Junior College family is very happy to be hosting the Winter Conference on February 4-5, 2016. The conference will be held on the Placencia Peninsula at the Robert's Grove Beach Resort, Habanero Restaurant Hall. We are excited to welcome you all.

For those who have never visited Placencia, it is a gorgeous emerald peninsula in Southern Belize with 16 miles of sandy beaches. The Caribbean Sea is to the east and the charming Placencia lagoon lies to west looking to the mountains on the mainland. The busy part of Placencia lies in the south where the visitor will find the greater concentration of coffee shops, bistros, internet cafes, the harbor, guest houses, taxi and bus station, banks and local restaurants. The northern portion of Placencia includes the Garifuna village of Seine Bight. It is less densely populated and has many of the more expensive resorts.

We are planning a very informative and educational session for you under the theme: Sharing best practices across higher educational institutions. The conference is expected to be filled with information sharing, learning experiences and collaborative ventures. At the same time, we are going to provide you with an unforgettable experience, as you explore one of Belize's most popular tourist destinations, Placencia.

At the conference, we are also planning a three (3) hours college fair for students from Southern Belize to benefit from the college and university offerings. The fair is proposed for Thursday evening from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm in the Parking Lot at Robert's Grove.

We take this opportunity to encourage our participants to make hotel arrangement early. February is considered "High" season in the tourism industry and we have been informed that hotel rooms are going at a fast pace. Kindly send us information on where you will be staying once you have made reservation.

Kindly find attached information on hotel accommodations for:

- Robert Grove Beach Resort
- Belize Ocean Club
- Laru Beya Resort

Finally, through this medium I would like to ask those colleges/universities that have partnered in some BZ/US venture to present on their past experiences – *benefits, strengths, challenges, weakness, future initiatives, etc.* Kindly send us an email as soon as possible, to confirm your participation, as we are currently developing our agenda. We are also looking for presenters who can present best practices in the following areas:

1. Quality assurance in Online courses
2. Online course delivery
3. Quality assurance
4. Student support systems
5. Community Service/Service Project
6. Faculty Training
7. Any other areas related to quality assurance in higher educational institutions

I look forward to seeing you very soon.

Best regards,

Marie Scott- Young