

## A Second Chance to prepare for educational advancement

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) is responding to the changing demands of education with the implementation of the Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC®) to at-risk youth through their new Strengthening 'Second Chance' Education Programme (2nd Chance Programme) in partnership with USAID.

The CCSLC programme will certify the knowledge, generic competencies, attitudes and values that all secondary school leavers should have attained. It is designed to certify these values needed to provide persons with a foundation for further education and training.

The Programme focuses on measuring several of the learner's core competencies such as problem solving and critical thinking skills; the ability to make informed decisions, manage emotions in a public domain, as well as the ability to communicate orally and in writing, and the development of independent learning strategies. Learners who successfully complete this Programme would have augmented their potential to gain entry-level employment. It also acts as a stepping stone or a foundation for continuing education in programmes such as the **Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC®) Programme**.

The CCSLC Programme will certify that candidates have successfully adopted a range of fundamental attitudes and values, including a positive image of self, family, community, region and the world. They will also gain respect for others regardless of age, class, creed, gender, ethnicity, physical abilities or nationality. A dislike for violence in all its forms and a commitment to settling disputes through arbitration and conciliation will also be attained. CCSLC certification will attest that the candidate has acquired competencies such as: Oral and Written Communication, Mathematical Literacy, Critical Thinking and Working in Groups.

The CCSLC Programme was piloted as an adult programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines where it received resounding success among the out-of-school population.

With the help of funding from USAID and the American people this prime opportunity has now been extended to the 'at-risk' youth population (16-30 age group) in nine regional territories through CXC's new 2nd Chance Programme.

This 2nd Chance Programme will be introduced in the nine territories of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. It will provide 'at-risk' youth who had been unable to complete their formal education with another opportunity (a 'second chance') to

access educational avenues specifically tailored for them. This Programme will ultimately improve their lives and ensure that a greater number of young people become participants in the positive development of our region.