UWI Regional Conference: Institutionalising Best Practice in Higher Education Showcasing Evidence of Good and Promising Practices

# Community Service Learning Project

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty of Engineering The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

> PRESENTED BY: JULIET ROMEO-JOSEPH JUNE 25, 2015

#### What is Community Service Learning (CSL)? 2

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...that subset of community engagement activities in which students, with the support of other stakeholders, collectively apply discipline-specific knowledge in a tangible manner to a particular community need, in order to obtain academic credit, as part of the Teaching/Learning associated with their programme of study<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Are You Engaged? Are We Engaged? – A Community Engagement Framework for The UWI at St. Augustine", p. 13 – The University of the West Indies 2012

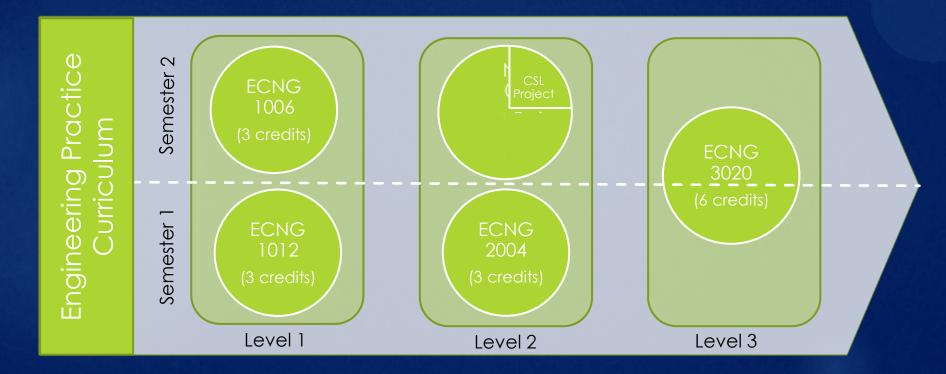
#### Why is it Best Practice?

- Enables students to apply their acquired skills to meet basic social and economic needs taking account of local and regional considerations
  - a key component of our graduate profile and IET requirement (for accreditation purposes)
- Facilitates active participation in a meaningful and fulfilling activity
- Builds key attributes in the distinguished UWI graduate

### CSL in Teaching & Learning

First introduced into the BSc Electrical and Computer Engineering programme in January 2009

Community-based group project



## CSL in Teaching & Learning



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#### CSL Main Project Objective

to identify and solve a problem,
 related to electrical and computer engineering
 in a community of choice

#### Process Flow

Group **Finalise** First Formal Site Visit **Initial Project** Brainstorming Project Proposal Session Scope Seek Design Funding UWI Hand Over Implement **Presentations** 

#### Video Presentation: CSL Project – Charis Works Christian Academy (2015)



### Lessons Learned - Highpoints

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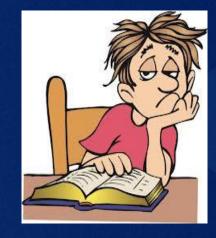
- UWI flagship project
- Impact
  - Beneficiary: "You did too much for me to just say thank you." -Angela Gonzales (Society of St. Vincent de Paul)
  - Students:
    "It was one of my proudest moments in life thus far..."
    Yohan Seepersad (student 2008/2009)
  - Accreditation: "...ability to apply acquired skills to meet basic social needs..."
- Catalysis
  - Sponsorship offers e.g. PPGPL
  - Service offers e.g. Eng. Institute, Electrical Inspectorate

#### Lessons Learned - Challenges

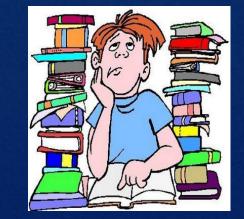














### Future Plans



- Introduce at end of semester 1
- Incentives for students
- Supporting workshops
- Strengthen approach to legal and

#### Video Presentation: Feedback from Beneficiary- The Lewis Family, La Fillette

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St. Dominic's Children's Home Belmont Orphanage

Telephones 624-7882 Telephones 624-7067

May 5, 2009

Mr. David Chow c/o The Engineering Students' Society Room 12 Block 7 Faculty of Engineering University of the West Indies <u>St. Augustine</u> 34b, Belmont Circular Road, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies,

Year 2 Electrical Engineering Students, U.W.I. St. Augustine

With thanks and appreciation for their invaluable contribution to 'Community Outreach Project, 2009'

Dated this 7th day of June 2009.



CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL Lyndon Street, Curepe, Trinidad, W.I. Tel: (868) 662-4120

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April 21, 2009

University of the West Indies St. Augustine Faculty of Engineering Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Attention: Lecturers - Dr. Ronald De Four and Ms. Juliet Romeo Joseph