

New UWI principal at induction:

Consider pan industry for economic diversification

RHONDA KRYSTAL RAMBALLY

Professor Brian Copeland was officially inducted as the ninth principal of The University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine campus on Saturday.

In his inaugural address, Copeland said he was hopeful that the Government would give some consideration to the steel pan industry for an opportunity for economic diversification.

He said, "I am hopeful that given the renewed focus on innovation and an element of the current Government's national development strategy some consideration will be given to the steel pan industry for an opportunity for economic diversification."

He said The UWI had embarked on its five-year strategic plan, a critical mission that will pilot its transformation



Chancellor, UWI Sir George Alleyne, left, presents Professor Brian Copeland after he was officially inducted as the ninth principal of the UWI St Augustine Campus at the Induction Ceremony, Daaga Auditorium, on Saturday night.

PHOTO: AYANNA KINSALE

to an institution that will lead Caribbean societies to near utopian scenario.

The ceremony was held at the Daaga Auditorium, St Augustine and was followed by a reception.

Copeland said, "At the St Augustine campus, we have identified

two major initiatives for immediate implementation. The first seeks to reform our core education processes to become much more efficient and relevant but increase access to a wider range of individuals and significantly, the underserved.

"The target is a holistically trained graduate who will be a model citizen of near utopia."

The second initiative, called "innovation imperative" will see the creation of an innovation eco-system.

He said the strategic activity was of the highest priority.

He also thanked former prime minister Patrick Manning for his contributions.

Copeland was named pro-vice chancellor and principal designate on April 29, last year. He assumed office on July 1, 2016. He will serve for a five-year term.

In his tribute, president of T&T Professor Dyer Narinesingh said Copeland was a re-

spected colleague who worked tirelessly for the holistic advancement of the country and the region.

"This is evidenced by his pioneering and innovative work on the steel pan, but moreso, in his distinguished teaching and administrative career - nurturing minds and changing lives through the medium of education."

President of the West Indies Group of University Teachers, Dr Bishnu Ragoonath said when Copeland tenanted "the corridor of power" at the engineering block, he advocated principles of respect, fairness and accountability.

"Now that he has migrated to the Office of the Campus Principal we expect him to continue to uphold these principles and ensure even more critically that they are institutionalised within our university."

Among the others bringing greetings were president of the Guild of Students Jonathan St Louis-Nahous, president of The UWI Alumni Association (T&T Local Chapter) Jerry Medford, chairman of the National Gas Company Gerry Brooks, chairman of the Campus Council Ewart Williams and Minister of Education Anthony Garcia.

Guests included President Anthony Carmona, Chief Justice Ivor Archie and several government ministers.

Miguel Moses

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