

Copeland inducted as UWI principal

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THE University of the West Indies Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Brian Copeland has been formally inducted as the eighth principal of the UWI's St Augustine campus.

The induction ceremony took place at the institution on Saturday evening.

Copeland succeeds former principal Prof Clement Sankat, who retired last year after serving in the position for two consecutive terms (2008-2016).

The new campus principal is credited with revolutionising this country's national instrument, the pan. He currently co-ordinates the Steelpan Initiatives Project (SIP), which saw the development and patenting of the G-Pan, a re-engineered form of the traditional pan; as well as the Percussive Harmonic Instrument (PHI), an electronic form of the pan.

Long list of achievements

Copeland received words of welcome and encouragement from a range of speakers at Saturday's ceremony, including Education Minister Anthony Garcia; National Gas Company chairman Gerry Brooks; and University of Trinidad and Tobago president Prof Dyer Narinesingh.

In his greetings, Garcia said



Copeland had a long list of achievements as an educator, inventor and innovator.

He expressed confidence in Copeland's ability to lead the institution and gave the assurance the

Government would work with him in that regard.

In his inaugural address, Copeland expressed hope the pan industry could be used as a tool for economic diversification.

"I saw steelpan as the cornerstone of a new culture that would focus on innovation-led entrepreneurship in T&T," he said.

He noted many graduates were now facing challenges with em-

FORMALITY: Prof Brian Copeland, centre, Pro Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, is presented to guests as the eighth principal of The UWI's St Augustine campus by UWI Chancellor Sir George Alleyne, left, following his induction ceremony on Saturday evening at the campus's Daaga Auditorium.
—Photo: STEPHEN DOORAY

ployment and said The UWI must prepare its students for such challenges. "We know all too well that many graduates are facing hitherto unseen levels of underemployment, even in the high demand professions such as medicine and law," he said.

"We have accepted the challenge of nurturing the abilities of our students to spot and exploit commercial opportunities and to derive novel, ingenious and workable solutions to our economic, societal and ecological challenges. They should be fully prepared for the entire spectrum of future scenarios."

He added the university is aiming to reform its core education processes to become more efficient and relevant and to increase access to a wider range of individuals.

Copeland's induction ceremony was attended by a range of Government and academic officials from across the region and featured performances on the PHI.