

\$2 million facelift for SJPI

200 EMPLOYEES TO BE TRAINED

The Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI) opened three out of four facilities which cost two million dollars.

The facilities were named after long standing partners of the school such as Digicel (Barbados) Ltd, Actavo Network, A&B Music Supplies Ltd and Ulyett's Machine Shop Service.

Manager of the Competency-Based Training Fund (CBTF) K. Anderson Lowe said SJPI had made four successful applications to the CBTF and have been awarded some \$2 million to train, assess and certify just under 200 employees from the local industry.

"Included in the awards was funding for the provision of the latest equipment, technology, and facilities identified as necessary by the employer and the SJPI to deliver 'fourth revolution' training," he said.

Lowe added the Competency-Based Training Fund is concerned with the training and certification of the Barbadian workforce and therefore sees the SJPI as a key strategic partner working with the industry to achieve this objective.

"The CBTF programme was designed to support a better alignment of the supply of training with the demands of the market by creating a demand-drive training and educational system. Under this system, partnerships between employers and training institutions train and certify Barbadian workers in the specific occupational areas demanded by employers using the competency-based approach to training and learning," he explained.

Deputy Principal of Administration Audrey Jones-Drayton said the fourth facility, Garment

and Technology, is also to receive a major upgrade at a later date.

"Garment Technology is a discipline that will soon embrace new and advanced pattern engineering technology for use in garment manufacture. There are also more advanced and upgraded courses coming on stream soon, such as those related to robotics, drone manufacture operation and courses that focus on hybrid and electric powered vehicles," she said.

Jones-Drayton who was filling in for the principal who was reporting to the Lower House, said the public will soon engage in courses at the institution in Live Sound Engineering, Fibre Optics, Computer Numerical Control or what some more commonly refer to as Computer Aided Manufacture.

"These partnerships have resulted in more competent technicians in their field and I daresay more competent technicians available for the world of work, some with new skills. This is in keeping with the trend at the institution to offer more technologically based courses," she said.

Government Sales Manager Digicel/Actavo Phillip Carter said Digicel's partnership with SJPI was a part of their corporate social responsibility.

"One of Digicel's core pillars is being a good corporate citizen in whichever country it maintains a presence in. When the SJPI approached us about this project, we were excited and intrigued. We welcomed the opportunity to start a relationship and a partnership that will make an impact on the lives of young people on this island," he said.

Meanwhile, Director of A&B Music Supplies Norman Barrow said that to have a part of SJPI named after his company is a momentous occasion for him.

"I want to say that I have always supported

Deputy Principal Administrations Audrey Jones- Drayton



the SJPI for many years. Every year we have internships with students who have completed their electronics courses and actually one of the students actually graduated from the Polytechnic," he said, adding the student he employed from SJPI has attended formal training overseas.

Workshop Manager of Ulyett's Machine Shop Service Geoffrey Ulyett thanked the SJPI for deciding to name a room in his honour and said that the fellow companies, A&B Supplies and Digicel, all are thankful for the recognition.

"Our forte is using the equipment and making sure that everything runs well. I would like to thank everyone who was involved with the project for making it as successful as it has been. [We] have all been together through the ups and down and we all have gotten through it and we are all here today," Ulyett said.

The plaques were unveiled, and students and members of the media got to tour the facilities to see the major upgrades to each of the three departments. The school is also scheduled to be formally renamed in the months to come. (LG)



Mechanical Maintenance students testing out the new technology in their facility named after the Ulyett's Machine Shop Service.



From left, Director of A&B Music Supplies Norman Barrow opening the facility with his wife Amy Barrow.

