



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES**

SOCIOLOGY. SOCIAL WORK. PSYCHOLOGY. GOVERNMENT. CRIMINOLOGY

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4th June 2020

Dr. Margo Burns
Director
Centre for Teaching and Learning
University of the West Indies
St. Augustine

Dr. Burns,

It is my distinct pleasure to nominate Dr. Camille Huggins for the 2020 UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award. Since joining the Faculty of Social Sciences in 2015, Dr. Camille Huggins distinguished herself as a committed teacher, diligent scholar, and a supportive colleague. I was impressed by her performance that I appointed her as my Deputy Dean for planning and programming for the academic year of 2018/2019, during my Deanship.

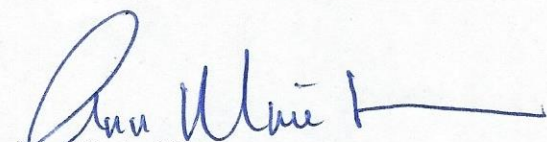
Dr. Huggins is committed to teaching and research. This is evident when Dr. Huggins attended CETL workshops to improve her teaching strategies and student engagement and received a Certificate in teaching and learning in 2018. Dr. Huggins also took the initiative to facilitate a qualitative research workshop in 2018 for the Faculty of Social Sciences. She invited a prominent guest speaker Dr. Maya Doyle from Quinnipiac University, USA; a qualitative research methods expert to conduct the 2-day training. Overall, eighteen post graduate students attended from social work, mediation, medical sciences, and management. This initiative was demonstrative of her interest in teaching post-graduate students contemporary and innovative research methods.

Another important initiative Dr. Huggins embarked on was brokering a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Quinnipiac University for a student exchange for Post graduate students between the two universities. It is a post-graduate initiative with a student exchange program with Quinnipiac University (QU) in Connecticut, USA. In 2019, Dr. Huggins and her counterpart from Quinnipiac University created a scholarship to assist three post-graduate students to travel to Connecticut as part of their practicum experience over seven days. Three students from the University of the West Indies-St. Augustine students had an opportunity to travel to Connecticut to gain knowledge of an established social welfare system serving diverse communities, to visit field agencies and community-based organizations. This initiative illuminated Dr. Huggins interest in creating a "world-sized classroom", giving students access to social work practice and policy, and to social justice challenges, beyond their own community, and with our global neighbors

During her tenure as Deputy Dean, Dr. Huggins assisted with several initiatives such as cost containment, community outreach as well as representing the dean as needed. Dr. Huggins also created another initiative

during the third term in 2019 which was a 40-hour training, the Essential skills for Forensic Social Work. Dr. Huggins co-created and co-led the training during June 3 to 7th 2019. There were 40 participants who were social workers and nurses from Children's Authority, St. Ann's psychiatric hospital, the Ministry of Education and medical social work. It was a great initiative that allowed access for continuing education for practitioners in the field. This initiative was a continuing education initiative for practitioners in the field which shows her versatility in teaching students at various levels of education.

As a colleague, Dr. Huggins is willing to contribute to the Faculty of Social Sciences in any way she can. She is attentive and always willing to help. It is an absolute pleasure working with an outstanding teacher and scholar who is dedicated to her students, her colleagues and by extension the Faculty. I firmly believe that her contribution to teaching and learning should not go unrecognized and therefore it is without hesitation that I support her application for the UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann Marie Bissessar", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ann Marie Bissessar
Professor