



# 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**

Telephone: 1 (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82020/82024/82539 Fax: 1 (868) 663-4948

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4th June 2020

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

Dear Dr. Burns,

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Camille Huggins for the 2020 UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award. Since joining the Department of Social Sciences in 2015, Dr. Camille Huggins distinguished herself as a committed teacher, diligent scholar, and a supportive colleague. She has provided a valuable contribution to the Department of Behavioral Sciences through research, teaching, and post graduate student supervision.

Dr. Huggins is committed to improving her teaching and student engagement modalities. This is evident when Dr. Huggins attended CETL workshops and received a Certificate in teaching and learning in 2018. Dr. Huggins has launched several initiatives to teach and support the Department of Behavioral Sciences' student body. With regard to her teaching ability and its impact on the Department of Behavioral Sciences she has revised (e.g., added new content, modified teaching delivery) course outlines where she is the first examiner including SOWK 3012, SOWK 6001, SOWK 6003, SOWK 2002, SOWK 6004, SOWK 2009. Her innovative approach to teaching these courses was able to garner student interest in the courses. For example, the enrollment rate for SOWK 3012 went from averaging 40 students to 70 to 100 students within the last two years. The course has received favorable student evaluations for the relevance of the course material and how the information was disseminated. Dr. Huggins is also the primary/co-supervisor of three (3) PhD, two (2) MPhil and six (6) M.Sc. students at all various stages of their thesis.

Another innovative teaching initiative was facilitating a qualitative research workshop in 2018. She invited a prominent guest speaker Dr. Maya Doyle from the USA; a qualitative research methods expert to conduct the 2-day training. Overall, eighteen post graduate students attended from majors such as social work, mediation, medical sciences, and management. This project exposed post-graduate students to contemporary and innovative research methods.

Dr. Huggins also embarked on 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 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

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. This training was a continuing education for professionals who were in the field. Dr. Huggins co-created and co-led the training during June 3 to 7<sup>th</sup> 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. This initiative was a continuing education initiative for practitioners in the field which shows her versatility in teaching students at various levels of education. Dr. Huggins also designed and created a new course, the SOWK Treatment and Practice of Forensic Populations. This blended course has been approved by the Faculty of Social Sciences Curriculum committee, Faculty Board, CETL, UWI-Mona, UWI-Cave Hill, UWI-Open Campus, AQAC and moved onto BUS. The SOWK Treatment and Practice of Forensic Population is an undergraduate course which provides an overview of vulnerable populations interacting with the legal system. This course is expansive and will be of interest to students in various disciplines.

As a colleague, Dr. Huggins is willing to contribute to the Department of Behavioral 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. What is most important to me is she undertakes her teaching and other duties with commitment, dedication, discipline and an emotional intelligence and professionalism.

Dr. Huggins’ contribution to teaching and learning must not go unrecognized. Therefore, it is without hesitation that I support her application for the UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award.

*Derek Chadee.*

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Professor Derek Chadee  
Head, Department of Behavioural Sciences