



## SERVICE COMMISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### ***Teaching Service Commission: Building staff capacity through Recognition and Appreciation***

With the heavy mandate of appointing persons to hold or act in public offices in the Teaching Service; including the power to promote, transfer and to discipline such officers, the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) realizes the significance of its role and impact on the quality of education in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). As such, in an extraordinary move to build the TSC's capacity, the organization recently launched its Employee Recognition and Appreciation Award program, spearheaded by TSC's Executive Director, Mr. Martel Waldron.

Held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, thirteen (13) of TSC's best performing employees were acknowledged, based on pre-set criteria, for their contributions, hard work and dedication to the Service. Special "People's Choice" awards were also given based on counterpart voting. Specially invited guests included the Chairman of the TSC, Dr. Fazal Ali, the Director of Personnel Administration (DPA), Service Commissions Department (SCD), Ms. Anastasius Creed, key-note speaker, Mr. Earl Williams and other SCD Executives and staff.

In his remarks, Dr. Ali noted that Trinidad and Tobago's education ranking in the Global Competitiveness Index as highlighted in the World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report 2016/2017 indicated that we had some catching up to do as compared to our neighbours Barbados and the United Kingdom. He emphasized that the TSC had an important role to play in this regard and encouraged staff to continue working hard through strengthened team work, while seeing each other as contributing to the development of education in the country, towards ultimately improving its ranking. The DPA commended staff while encouraging them to continue on their chosen path as already TSC had seen great results through the initiative. This, she also attributed, to Mr. Waldron's stellar work ethic and vision. Key-note speaker, Mr. Earl Williams, alluded to the metaphor of an ice-berg's real strength residing beneath the ocean's surface and challenged staff to build capacity by personally digging deeper to give more.



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Prior to the distribution of awards, Mr. Waldron proudly noted the achievements of the TSC in his presentation, indicating that as a result of this *“targeted project to fill vacancies to clear outstanding work, the TSC had made more appointments for the period January to March 2017, than it had done for January to December for the years 2015 and 2016 respectively.”*

Mr. Waldron also revealed next quarter’s aims to fill 250-300 vacancies, adding that he had all intentions of continuing and improving on the project, by finding new areas in which to reward and recognize staff, with the intention of developing them into better SCD employees.

To say the least, the function was nothing short of a well-deserved celebration of a holistic approach to motivating staff while improving on the TSC’s overall performance in filling vacancies. As the TSC looks to July 2017 to host the next Recognition and Appreciation Award Function, Mr. Waldron hopes that the initiative will fuel similar projects throughout the SCD, as the organization continues its journey **“Towards Service Delivered.”**