



Jamaica Teachers'  
Association  
**EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE  
2026**



THEME: Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis:  
**ADVANCING STEAM and TVET**  
to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery

**April 7-9, 2026**  
Princess Grand Hotel Jamaica  
Green Island, Hanover

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Dr. Kevin Brown**  
President  
University of  
Technology





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# Jamaica Teachers' Association **EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026**

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# MESSAGE

**Mark Malabver**  
*President, JTA*

**R**ecent crises—whether global, environmental, or systemic—have done more than disrupt education; they have revealed its fault lines. They exposed gaps in preparedness, inequities in access, and a troubling misalignment between what we teach and what our students need to thrive. Yet, amid these challenges, our teachers demonstrated remarkable resilience—adapting, innovating, and sustaining learning under extraordinary conditions.

It is within this context that this Education Conference assumes critical importance, particularly as we centre our national focus on STEAM and TVET. These are not peripheral priorities; they are essential to Jamaica’s future. In a rapidly evolving, technology-driven and skills-based global economy, our education system must move beyond traditional paradigms toward one that values innovation, problem-solving, and practical competence alongside academic excellence.

STEAM challenges us to cultivate creativity, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary learning. TVET compels us to confront and dismantle outdated hierarchies that have long undervalued technical and vocational pathways. Together, they demand a system that is relevant, inclusive, and aligned with national development.

This conference must therefore move us from reflection to action. How do we equip our teachers to deliver high-quality STEAM and TVET education? How do we ensure equitable access to the necessary tools, infrastructure, and industry partnerships? And how do we align policy, investment, and practice to build a coherent, future-ready system?

We must be clear: meaningful transformation is not possible without investing in the teaching profession. Teachers cannot be asked to drive innovation while working within constraints that stifle it. If we are serious about student outcomes, we must be equally serious about teacher wellbeing, professional respect, and fair compensation.

Let this conference signal a decisive shift—from rhetoric to results, from fragmentation to coherence, and from aspiration to action. The future of education in Jamaica will be shaped by the decisions we make now.

The Jamaica Teachers’ Association remains committed to advancing an education system that is resilient, equitable, and future-focused. I commend all participants for their engagement in this vital work.

**The time for transformation is now.**



# MESSAGE

## **Senator Dr. the Honourable Dana Morris Dixon,** *Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information*

### **Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis: Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery**

Over recent years, education systems worldwide have faced unprecedented disruption—from pandemics and climate volatility to economic shifts and rapid technological change. Jamaica has been at the forefront of these external shocks. These realities have required us not only to adapt, but to lead with innovation and foresight. This year's Jamaica Teachers' Association Conference theme challenges us to reimagine how we prepare learners and our educators for an uncertain yet opportunity-filled future. Future-proofing education demands bold transformation anchored in the strategic convergence of STEAM and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

For too long, education has operated in silos—separating theory from technical skill and creativity from industry. That model no longer serves us. Integrating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and TVET creates a dynamic, skill-driven ecosystem that values both intellectual rigour and practical competence. It connects design thinking with execution, creativity with craftsmanship, and digital fluency with industrial capability.

This integration must also be reflected in curriculum transformation. Academic and technical pathways cannot remain parallel tracks; they can and they must intersect intentionally.

Mainstreaming TVET is equally critical. Technical education must stand as an equal and aspirational pathway, embedded across all levels of schooling. Hands-on, project-based learning benefits every learner.

This year we are embarking on an ambitious infrastructure modernisation programme with new state-of-the-art TVET labs for our technical schools and new science labs for institutions right across the island.

Senator the Honourable Dr. Dana Morris Dixon: Minister; Honourable Rhoda Moy Crawford, M.P., Minister of State.

As we advance this agenda, collaboration among government, educators, industry and communities is essential. Equity must remain central, ensuring that rural and underserved learners access emerging opportunities.

Together, by advancing STEAM and TVET integration, we will build a resilient, innovative education system capable of navigating Jamaica's children through today's challenges and preparing them for tomorrow's possibilities. I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Jamaica Teachers' Association for convening this timely and important Education Conference and for continuing to provide a platform for critical dialogue and forward-thinking solutions. Best wishes for a productive, insightful and action-oriented session as we collectively shape a future-ready education system for Jamaica.





# MESSAGE

**Dr. Mark Nicely, JP**  
*Secretary General, JTA*

## **Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis: Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery**

Education remains a foundational driver of social progress and economic development across Jamaica, the Caribbean, and the wider global community. For Small Island Developing States (SIDS), this role carries particular urgency. In a context shaped by climate vulnerability, public health emergencies, technological disruption, and economic uncertainty, education systems must move beyond crisis response toward deliberate design for resilience, innovation, and sustainable recovery.

I welcome this conference theme as both timely and strategically aligned with Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Development Plan, which positions education and human capital development at the centre of national prosperity, equity, and global competitiveness. This emphasis also resonates with the CARICOM Human Resource Development Strategy, reflecting a shared regional commitment to building adaptive, knowledge-driven societies. The focus on Science, Technology, Engineering,

the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), alongside Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), speaks directly to these national and regional priorities.

Across CARICOM and other SIDS, recent crises have exposed persistent structural challenges within education systems, including resource constraints, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and digital inequities. At the same time, they have highlighted the resilience and ingenuity of educators. Teachers have sustained learning through virtual classrooms, online professional networks, and digital platforms, often repurposing social media as spaces for collaboration, innovation, and advocacy. These experiences confirm that flexibility, digital competence, and creativity are no longer supplementary attributes, but core educational requirements.

STEAM education cultivates critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving, capabilities essential for addressing the complex development challenges facing SIDS, including climate adaptation, energy transition, food security, and technological innovation. It prepares learners to

contribute meaningfully within a global knowledge economy. TVET complements this by grounding learning in practical application, productivity, and entrepreneurship. It strengthens workforce readiness, reduces skills mismatches, and supports economic recovery during periods of disruption.

For Jamaica and CARICOM states collectively, advancing STEAM and TVET must be intentional, inclusive, and coordinated. This requires sustained investment in teacher professional development, modern learning infrastructure, curriculum reform, and reliable digital connectivity. Equally important is stronger alignment between education systems and labour market needs, supported by collaboration among governments, industry partners, tertiary institutions, international development agencies, and the Caribbean diaspora.

Teachers are central to this transformation. No education reform, local, regional, or global, can succeed without recognizing educators as the primary agents of change. In times of crisis, teachers have consistently extended their roles as innovators, mentors, and stabilising forces within communities.

Safeguarding their well-being, strengthening their professional capacity, and ensuring meaningful engagement in policy development are therefore essential to sustainable reform.

As political theorist Hannah Arendt observed, “Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it.” That responsibility is especially acute for Jamaica and the wider Caribbean as global conversations on artificial intelligence, green economies, and the future of work continue to reshape education policy. Our systems must not be merely reactive, but visionary.

This conference offers an opportunity to move beyond dialogue to decisive action. Let us reaffirm our collective commitment, within Jamaica, across CARICOM, and in partnership with the international community, to policies and practices that reflect both the letter and the spirit of Vision 2030. In doing so, we position education as our most powerful instrument for innovation, resilience, and recovery for Small Island Developing States now and into the future.

## The Jamaica Teachers' Association

### *Our Vision*

To be the regional bench mark for teacher membership organizations; setting standards of excellence in service delivery and commitment to National development through education



### *Our Mission*

The Jamaica Teachers' Association is a democratic organization dedicated to the professional, financial and social advancement of its members and the promotion of the highest educational standards for the country.

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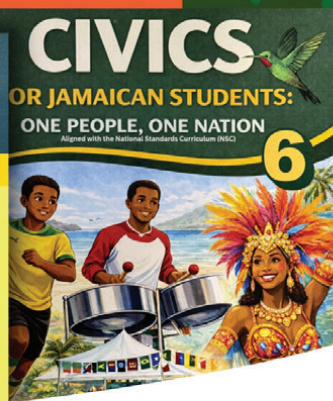
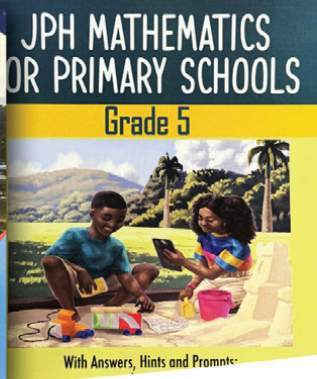
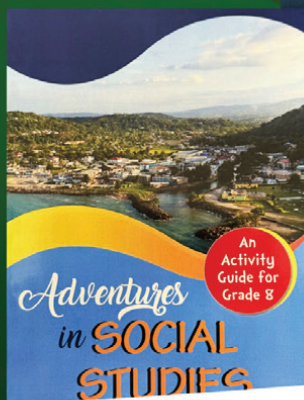
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# MESSAGE

**Margaret Chin Ed.D**

**Assistant Secretary General Professional Services JTA  
& Chairman, Programmes Committee**

**Good morning, esteemed educators, industry partners, and distinguished guests.**

 On behalf of the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) Education Conference Programme Sub-Committee, it is a privilege to welcome you to the 2026 Education Conference.

Today, we gather not just as educators, but as architects of the future workforce. Our theme, **'Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis: Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery'**, is not just a title; it is a Call to Action. From global health shifts to rapid economic fluctuations and the climate crisis such as Hurricane Melissa, Jamaica is demanding more from our education system than ever before. In 2026, the global landscape of TVET is being reshaped by AI, robotics, and sustainable green skills. We therefore find ourselves at a pivotal moment. Your role in the classroom becomes more vital than ever—you are the ones translating these complex industry shifts into hands-on, project-based learning for our students.

In times of instability, traditional rote learning is not enough. We need **STEAM/TVET** - the powerful fusion of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics with Technical and Vocational Training. This combination ensures our students don't just 'know' things, but they can **do** things. They become the problem-solvers, the inventors, and the resilient workforce that will sustain innovation even when the ground shifts beneath us.

As educators, you are the front line of this resilience. Over the next three days, our goal is to move beyond 'survival mode' and into **strategic growth**. During the conference you will experience:

- **Interactive Workshops:** Exploring an integrated curricula and immersive STEM/TVET tools for the classroom, ensuring vocational skills remain relevant in a high-tech, global economy.
- **Creating Agile Curricula:** How to pivot teaching methods quickly during disruptions.
- **The Power of the 'A' (Arts):** Using design thinking and creativity to humanize technical solutions.
- **Collaborative Sessions:** Sharing best practices for inclusive and equitable STEM/TVET education.

I challenge you to use this conference to build a network of support. Share your setbacks as much as your successes. Let us move from **reacting** to crises to **anticipating** them, ensuring that no matter the challenge, our students as well as our education system remain future-ready. I wish to thank all the members of the Programme Sub-Committee for their input into the design of this programme. Your skills and expertise gave direction to all the activities that we will be engaged in over the next three days. To our attendees, thank you for your tireless dedication to your students and for being the catalyst for change in our education system. Let us use this time to connect, innovate, and inspire one another.

It is an honour to officially declare this conference open!





# Jamaica Teachers' Association

## EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026

### Overview and Objectives

#### Conference Overview

The Jamaica Teachers' Association 2026 Education Conference focuses on the theme ***“Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis: Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery”***. In 2026, future-proofing education revolves around a strategic convergence between STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training). This shift moves away from isolated academic silos toward an integrated, skill-first ecosystem driven by rapid infrastructure expansion.

Future-proofing education in times of crisis has transitioned from reactive “emergency remote teaching” to a more proactive approach that builds the capacity of the system to absorb, resist, and adapt to local and global challenges while ensuring the continuity of its vital function – teaching and learning. One such approach is the integration of STEAM and TVET which combine high-level theoretical knowledge with industry-specific practical application into the curriculum. The conference serves as a vital platform for all stakeholders to collaborate on transforming education and training, so that students can be equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and build a future-ready workforce.

#### Conference Objectives

The conference aims to re-engineer Jamaica’s traditional education process to better serve a knowledge-based economy. The primary goal is to bridge the gap between educational outputs and evolving labour market demands.

The conference seeks to achieve its objectives through the following:

- **Curriculum Transformation:** Equipping participants with strategies to integrate STEAM competencies into competence-based TVET and the NSC curricula.
- **Mainstreaming TVET:** Positioning Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a primary pillar within the general education system rather than a secondary track.
- **Curriculum Synergy:** Establishing frameworks to deliver STEAM competencies—such as critical thinking and inquiry—through hands-on vocational training.
- **Stakeholder Ecosystems:** Developing effective government-education-industry ecosystems to sustain long-term economic growth.
- **Equity & Inclusion:** Strengthening institutional capacity to increase the participation of marginalized groups, particularly students from low-income families, in STEAM-related TVET.
- **Resource Sharing:** Providing a platform for researchers and practitioners to exchange best practices, innovative frameworks, and case studies.
- **Policy & Governance:** Formulating regional and global roadmaps for mutual recognition of educational credentials and credit transferability.





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# Jamaica Teachers' Association EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2025 *Highlights*



L-R Maize Hayles JTA Coop Regional Manager smiles as she looks back at the list of persons who stopped at her booth during Education Conference 2025



A member of Bookzone Limited shows off some of the literature on display at the conference



Members of the Heart NSTA Trust make final preparations for their Robotics presentation at the Education Conference



An exhibitor having a chat with the communications officer Leon Nash while to the right more delegates engage the exhibitors about their products



A member of Infiniti speaking to a delegate about her organisation and its offerings.



Members of the Conference take time out to view the code monkey technology on display



A member of the delegation to the Education Conference gets some attention from the cosmetology unit of Heart NSTA Trust while Assistant Secretary General in charge of Professional Services, Dr. Margaret Chin chats with Deputy Secretary General, Clayton Hall (Back to Camera)



Minister of Education, Youth, Skills and Information, Senator the Hon Dr. Dana Morris Dixon addressing the conference. At head table pictured from left are: Deputy Secretary General Clayton Hall, Secretary General Dr Mark Nicely, Representative of the Custos of Trelawny, Keynote speaker from Head of the School of Humanities and Education, UWI five Islands, Dr Andrew Hunte, President Dr Mark Smith. President Elect Mark Malabver and Immediate Past President Leighton Johnson and Deputy Secretary General in charge of Professional Services, Dr Margaret Chin



Senator the Hon Dr. Dana Morris Dixon, Education, Youth, Skills and information fields questions from the audience while President Elect, Mark Malabver and IPP, Leighton Johnson listens. Prior to that all members of the head table participated in corporate prayer as they looked forward to a successful conference



Some of the speakers who addressed the conference included, from left to right, Secretary General, Dr Mark Nicely, President Dr. Mark Smith, Keynote speaker Dr. Andrew A. Hunte, Head - School of Humanities and Education, UWI Five Islands Campus, Antigua and Barbuda



Mr Clayton Hall, Deputy Secretary General, Admin Officer in charge of Communication and PR Leaon Nash and Dr Junior Martin of Utech all took turns to either give instructions or address the participants



Presentation Time!!!

Ricardo D. Allen, the dynamic Founder & CEO of One on One Educational Services Limited, makes a presentation while another presenter, Dr Rohan Jowallah of eLearning poses with some of the delegates after presenting them with thumb drives with educational material. The occasion was the 2025 Annual Education Conference at the Ocean Coral Spring in Trelawny.



Leaon Nash, the JTA's Communications Officer enjoys a presentation by the children at the conference alongside Mrs Anniona Jones a member of the JTA. They are joined by other members of the audience (below) who undoubtedly show that they are enjoying the presentation as well



(L-R) Mr Clayton Hall, Deputy Secretary General engages Dr Maureen Nelson of the Mico University and LaSonja Harrison, candidates in the run for President Elect of the JTA



Kahja Cunningham, Tip Friendly Society's BDO of Montego Bay Branch, St James makes a presentation. The occasion was Education Conference 2025



Mrs Prudence Burrell, Acting Manager – JPH gives the 'thumbs up' as she addresses the participants about the entities offerings.



Dapper indeed!! JTA Secretary General, Dr Mark Nicely and Wife Tifhany on their way to the conference room in 2025



Dr Prim Lewis, Principal of deCarteret College, Mandeville rises to ask a question during the conference while Dr. Maureen Mullings - Nelson looks on



On stage, Horace Mckellop, Onex Bowen and Jeramine Williams, all members of the JTA PAC Committee participating in one of the morning devotions the the 2025 Education Conference,



Sean Blair, a member of the Trelawny Teachers' Association makes a presentation to Prof. Cynthia Onyefulu of the Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies, University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech, one one of the presenters at the conference before taking his seat beside others in the conference



**This is so Good to watch!!** This seems to be what the teams of Deputy Secretary General, Clayton Hall, then General Manager of Tip Friendly Society, Wilton South, Kaydian Scott and Onex Bowen seem to be saying to each other as they pay attention to a stream on their phones



**INTERVIEW TIME** - Various persons attending the 2025 conference, took time to either be interviewed on the Morning agenda of Power 106FM with Kemoy McKecon or on the JTA Youtube channel with Leon Nash



Left to right - the new JTA President, Mark Malabver with host of the Morning agenda of Power 106FM, Kemoy McKecon



The President, Mark Malabver and Jacqueline Hendricks sat down for an interview with the Admin officer in charge of Communications, Leon Nash



Dr Prim Lewis, Principal of deCarteret College, Mandeville and Ms Gombele chats with Leon Nash.



Aldrick Perry of the Moneague College in St Ann discusses with the JTA's Communication and PR Officer, Leon Nash the College's presence at the Education Conference

Marketing Consultant for Book Zone, Joseph Donaldson sits down with the JTA's Admin officer in charge of Communication & Public Relations, Leon Nash to discuss matters pertaining to Bookzone's display at the Conference.



Audley Feare (in grey coat) Tousean Williams and the Regional Manager of the JTA Cooperative Credit Union, Maise Hayles all got opportunities to talk about the conference last year.





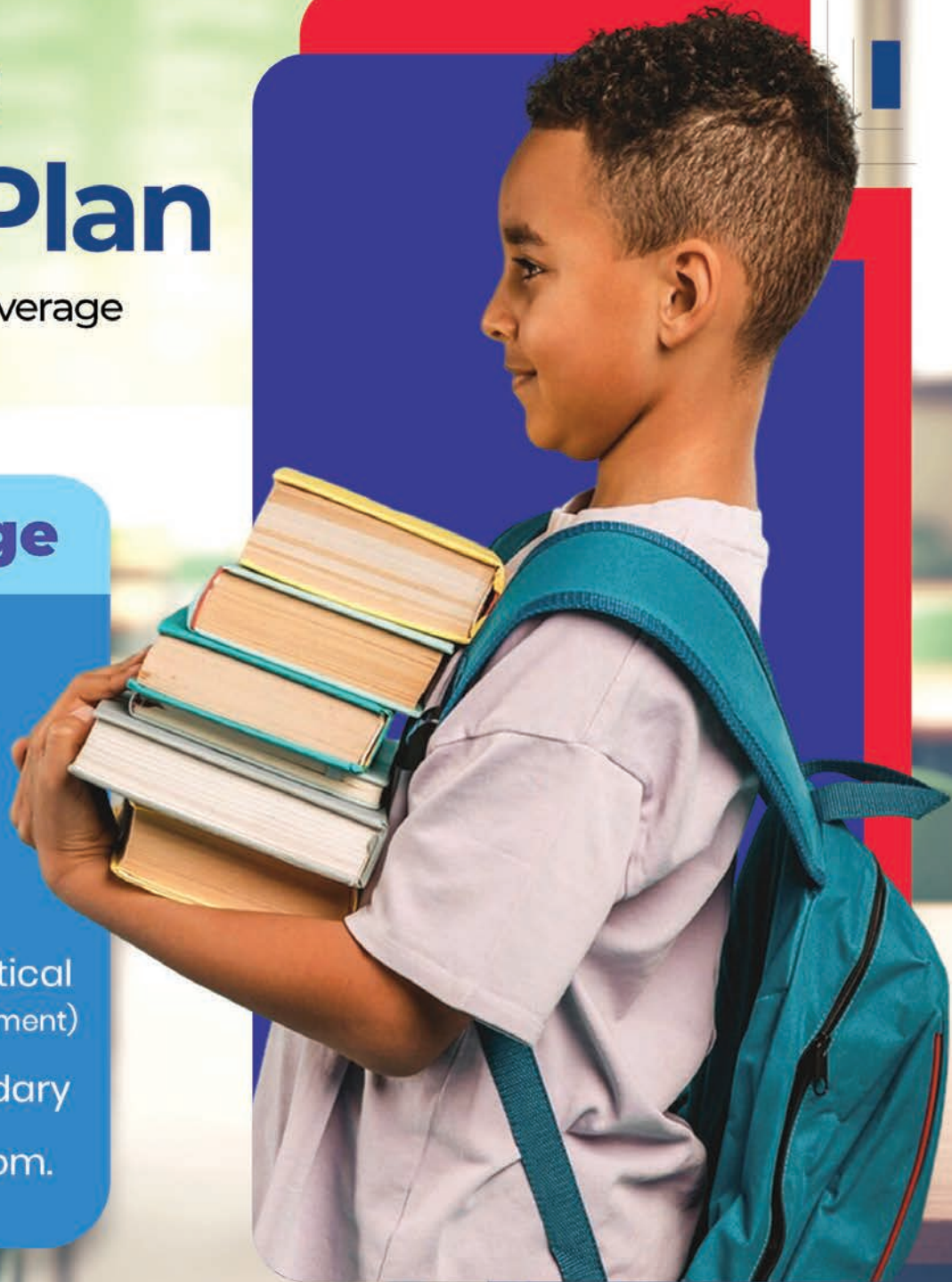
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Jamaica Teachers' Association

# EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026

APRIL 7-9, 2026 | PRINCESS GRAND HOTEL, HANOVER

**THEME: Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis:  
Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery**

## DAY 1 – Tuesday, April 7, 2026

8: 00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon OPENING SESSION

Call to Order: **Chairman**  
**Mr. Clayton Hall,**  
Deputy Secretary General, JTA

National Anthem

Devotional Exercise: **Rev. Othneil Morgan**  
Pastor, Fletcher's Grove Baptist Church  
Sandy Bay, Hanover

Opening Remarks: **Chairman**

Welcome **Dr. Mark Nicely, JP**  
Secretary General, JTA

Conference Overview: **Dr. Margaret Chin,**  
Assistant Secretary General  
& Chairman of the Conference Programme Committee



Jamaica Teachers' Association  
**EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026**

**Greetings:** **Hon. Lennox Anderson-Jackson, JP**  
Custos Rotulorum of Hanover

**Hon. Rhoda Moy Crawford**  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth & Information

**Item:** **Cove Primary School**

**Remarks:** **Mr. Mark Malabver**  
President, JTA

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker:** **Mrs. Andrea Bryan Hughes**  
**Chairman,**  
Professional Advancement & Teacher Welfare Committee (PAC)

**Keynote Speaker:** **Dr. Kevin Brown**  
**President, University of Technology Jamaica**

**Item:** **Cove Primary School**

**Vote of Thanks:** **Mrs. La Sonja Harrison**  
President-Elect, JTA

**Announcements**

**12:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. LUNCH**

**2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. PLENARY ONE**  
**Topic: STEAMifying TVET: Transforming STEAM Through TVET Integration**

**Presenters: Marcus Garvey Technical High School**

**Ms. Kaydia Cunningham**  
STEAM Teacher Lead/Science Teacher

**Mrs. Tashana Smith-Clarke**  
Teacher, Cosmetology & Barbering

**Mr. Kirk Smith**  
HOD, Industrial Arts

**Moderator: Raia Richards Peart**  
**Member, Professional Advancement & Teacher Welfare Committee (PAC)**



3:00 p.m. -3:15 p.m.

LAUNCH OF EduHub Eezy Teach Programme

3:15 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

## DAY 2 –Wednesday, April 8, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Registration

9: 15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Devotion

### 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m. **PLENARY TWO**

**Topic:** The New Era of Teaching: Shifting from Rote to Applied Learning

**Presenter:** Mrs. Sonia Bennett Anderson  
Publishing Manager, Carlong Publishers

**Moderator:** Ms. Rhamona Bromfield  
Chairman, Membership Committee

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

### **B R E A K**

10:45 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1**

Presentation Title	Presenter(s)	Room	Moderator
Supplementing Physical Workshops with Virtual Labs & Simulation (Secondary)	Mr. Kevin Coke Teacher Herbert Morrison High School	<b>Amber</b>	Mr. Omar Tomlinson <i>Member, Professional Advancement &amp; Teacher Welfare Committee (PAC)</i>
Linking Performance Tasks to Project-Based and Problem Based Learning (Primary)	Mrs. Davia Bryan Campbell CEO & Founder EduHub Co. Ltd.	<b>Larimar</b>	Mrs. Colleen Reid Grant <i>Member, Primary Committee</i>
Integration of STEAM and TVET in Higher Education (Tertiary)	<b>Dr. Philmore McCarthy</b> <i>Principal Excelsior Community College &amp; Member, Tertiary Committee</i>  <b>Mrs. Kristina Francis</b> <i>Senior Lecturer School of Engineering &amp; Built Environment Excelsior Community College</i>	<b>Quartz</b>	Dr. Sherian Mercy <i>Member Tertiary Committee</i>



11:30 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2**

Presentation Title	Presenter(s)	Room	Moderator
STEAM/TVET Teaching in Special Education and Diverse Classrooms	Dr. Prim Lewis Chairman, Special Education Committee, JTA	<b>Quartz</b>	Dr. Latoya Reeves <i>Member</i> <i>Special Education Committee</i>
<i>Integrating STEAM/TVET into Lesson Planning: Promoting Success at all Levels</i>	Mr. Lamar Wellington Lecturer, Caribbean Maritime Institute	<b>Amber</b>	Mrs. Lorraine Reid Henningham <i>Chairman, Secondary Committee</i>
<i>Redesigning Assessment to Foster Equity and Inclusion</i>	Dr. Valri Morgan Head of Dept. Mico University College  Mrs. Shellon Samuels-White Assessment Officer Mico University College	<b>Larimar</b>	Ms. Tamashella Smith <i>Chairman, Education &amp; Research Committee</i>

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **LUNCH**

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **PLENARY THREE**

**Topic:** The Missing “A” in STEM:  
Re-imagining the Arts in Education

**Presenters:** Mrs. Dionne Somers-Campbell  
Education Officer – Theatre Arts & Drama  
Ministry of Education, Youth, Skills & Information

**Moderator:** Mr. Ansel Palmer



3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## PLENARY FOUR

**Topic:** Rise of the Bots: Integrating Robotics in School Curricula

**Presenters:** Ms. Kadie-Ann Gregwah  
Regional Training Officer  
e-Learning Jamaica

Ms. Sanjay Dixon  
Regional Training Officer  
e-Learning Jamaica

Mr. Garfield Morrison  
Regional Training Officer  
e-Learning Jamaica

**Moderator:** Mrs. Halima Jackson  
Member, Early Childhood Committee

## DAY 3 – Thursday, April 9, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Devotion

## 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. PLENARY FIVE

**Topic:** Mainstreaming TVET in the Education System:  
Fostering Innovation & Resilience

**Presenter:** Dr. Nadine Barrett Maitland  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Engineering and Computing, Utech Jamaica

**Moderator:** Mrs. Mellissa Beckford Simpson  
Chairman  
International Relations Committee

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

## BREAK



10:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

## VOICES FROM THE FIELD PANEL DISCUSSION

**Topic:** Future-Proofing Education in Times of Crisis:  
Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation,  
Resilience and Recovery  
(The Global Perspective)

**Presenters:** Representatives

- **Caribbean Union of Teachers (CUT)**  
**Dr. Mugwena Maluleke**  
General Secretary  
South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU)
- **Dr. Fedrick Ingram**  
Secretary Treasurer, American Federation of  
Teachers (AFT)
- **Dr. Dwyane Dyce**  
CEO, Education Solutions International
- **Mrs. Sharon Clifton-Kelsick**  
President, Caribbean Union of Teachers
- **Dr. Colin Wolfe –**  
JDTAN\  
School Administrator

**Moderator:** **Dr. Nadine Barrett Maitland**  
Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Engineering and Computing, Utech Jamaica

12:00 p.m. -12:30 p.m.

## PRESENTATION BY WALDEN UNIVERSITY

12:30 p.m. -12:50 p.m.

## 2026 PRESIDENT ELECT CANDIDATES SPEAK

## CLOSING SESSION

12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### The Way Forward - Recommendations

Dr. Mark Nicely, Secretary General

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## LUNCH AND DEPARTURE



Jamaica Teachers' Association  
**EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026**

# Jamaica Teachers' Association

# ON DEMAND

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**Keynote Speaker**  
**Kevin Brown PhD, MEng (Hons.),**  
**AMIMEchE**

**President**  
**University of Technology**

Dr. Kevin Brown was appointed the fifth President of the University of Technology, Jamaica on September 11, 2023. Dr. Brown has been a trailblazer in academia and the aerospace industry for over 18 years. He is a technical expert in complex and integrated aerospace structural system design and a thought-leader in transport systems, engineering materials and numerical computational analysis.

Prior to his appointment as President, he served as Technology Project Lead for Civil Aerospace Technology and Future Programmes at Rolls-Royce – a leading global aerospace company and provider of jet engines for commercial and defence aircrafts with over 44,000 employees worldwide. He joined Rolls-Royce in 2013 and held a number of technical and management roles with responsibility for strategic planning, financial management and leadership of global teams across the Rolls-Royce aerospace business including New Product Introduction, Research and Technology, Future Programmes and Aftermarket Services.

In his previous role as Programme Manager, he led a series of multi-million pound complex strategic change management projects that were focused on delivering corporate goals

for cost reduction, improved safety, customer satisfaction and increased financial return.

He is an inventor and holds a patent in America and Britain. He is also an entrepreneur and co-founder of a start-up company in telecommunications. His innovative and pioneering work includes the strategic development of lightweight composite material structures for future jet engines through collaboration with a series of technology partners and top UK universities including Oxford and Bristol Universities. He has had responsibility for a portfolio of high value technology programmes. His work led to the recent introduction of a composite fan system on the new Rolls-Royce demonstrator engine, the UltraFan, which promises to be the engine of the future.

Prior to joining Rolls-Royce, he was a Research Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Nottingham for 5 years where he led world-class research on developing novel composite materials and structures, including numerical computational models and undertaking complex experimental processes.

Dr. Brown has authored and won multi-million pound research grant proposals and has published 22 peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers. He has also taught and supervised many undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students and completed several consultancy assignments for major British and international companies. He is a member of several professional institutions including the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE).

Dr Brown has an impressive record of community engagement and public service over the last 20 years, holding several leadership roles, establishing a range of initiatives and working closely with politicians, Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments as well the private sector and NGOs. He is a radio broadcaster and has been the host of the Talkback Show on 97.5 KEMET FM for over 12 years. He has also been a guest commentator on BBC radio.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Dr Brown is an alumnus of UTech, Jamaica where he completed a Diploma (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering majoring in Production in 2000 and was President of the Student's Union. He received a scholarship from Ford Motor Company and earned a Master's degree and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nottingham.

Dr Brown is the recipient of several awards for achievements in scholarship, academia and community service with the most recent being a Rolls-Royce 'Recognition Award' and the Sons of the Father Men's Movement Award for 'Services to the Jamaica Diaspora.' He is a qualified England Cricket Board (ECB) cricket coach and an English Football Association (FA) football coach.

Dr Brown is married with and has two children.





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## Andrea Bryan Hughes

Chairman  
Professional Advancement & Teacher Welfare Committee  
(PAC)

Mrs. Andrea Bryan Hughes has training and experience in hospitality and tourism, but has been an educator for over two (2) decades. She is certified in the teaching of Spanish and Linguistics and has continued her educational trajectory by reading for other degrees in the field of language education.

Prior to her assumption as Principal of the St. Hugh's High School for Girls, Mrs. Bryan Hughes held the position of Communications and Alumni Affairs Officer, and Lecturer of Literacy and Language Arts courses at The Moneague College. She also served as an adjunct lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Technology (UTech) where she facilitated Academic Writing and Literacy courses. Worthy of note, is that she also has

teaching experience at both the primary and secondary levels of the education system.

Possessing a zeal for education and its role in nation building, Andrea embraces the philosophy of John Dewey who postulates, "Education is not an affair of telling and being told, but an active and constructive process" and therefore employs this theory daily in her role as an instructional leader.

Driven by her strong Anglican faith, Andrea tries to stay true to the Lord's teachings in Hebrews 13:16 "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

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## Mrs. Davia Bryan Campbell

CEO & Founder  
EduHub Co. Ltd.

Davia Bryan-Campbell is an educator, EdTech innovator, and Founder & CEO of EduHub Company Limited, a leading Caribbean EdTech company. With over 20 years of experience in education, she has served as a classroom teacher, project manager, and EdTech specialist. She holds a Master's in Educational Technology from the University of South Wales, a

Bachelor's in Guidance and Counselling from the Jamaica Theological Seminary, and a teaching diploma from Shortwood Teachers' College. Davia is the creator of EduHub StudySmart, StudySmart CXC AI Tutor, and EezyTeach AI, and founder of TeenTechJa. She is a National Innovator of the Year and a recipient of the Jamaica Private Sector Productive Award.



## Kaydia Cunningham

Senior Lecturer and Vice Dean  
Faculty of Education and Liberal Studies ,  
University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech)

Kaydia Cunningham is an award-winning STEAM educator, curriculum innovator, and Trainer of Trainers (T.O.T) with over a decade of transformative teaching experience at the secondary level. A teacher of Science at Marcus Garvey Technical High School under Jamaica's Ministry of Education, she serves as a Ministry of Education STEAM Teacher Lead and Trainer, a certified ITEN Teacher Lead, and a trained T.O.T building the capacity of educators at both the institutional and national level. A STEM Ambassador, JTC Teacher Mentor, Executive Team Member of the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica (ASTj), and proud past Co-opted Member of the JTA Professional Team (2023–2025), Kaydia's influence spans the classroom, the staffroom, and the national education landscape.

A recipient of the prestigious STEAM Educator Excellence Award from the Ministry of Education and the British Council, Kaydia is also the Founder

of **Teachus EduTech** a YouTube channel dedicated to equipping teachers with STEAM best practices and ICT skills. A champion of innovation, Kaydia has spearheaded several landmark projects, including the **Virkin Trainer Project** which earned the prestigious Most Likely to Be Funded award at the MoE/21CentEd/UTech International STEAM Conference and the **Eco Vision 360 Recycling Project**, a sustainability initiative driving environmental awareness through student-led action. As a STEAM Club Coordinator, she continues to champion future-focused, student-centred learning. At the 2026 JTA Annual Conference, Kaydia will deliver the plenary **"STEAMifying TVET: Transforming Education Through TVET Integration"** a powerful call to action for advancing STEAM and TVET as pillars of resilience and recovery in Jamaican education.





## **Mrs. Tashana Smith Clarke**

**Teacher, Cosmetology & Barbering**

**Marcus Garvey Technical High School**

Mrs. Tashana Smith Clarke is a dedicated educator with over five years of experience in teaching and learning within the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). She currently serves as a Cosmetology and Barbering teacher at Marcus Garvey Technical High School, where she is committed to equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for the beauty and grooming industry. In her role, she plans and delivers engaging lessons, supervises practical salon activities, and mentors students in professional standards, sanitation, and entrepreneurship. She is committed to educating and empowering students through the sharing of her knowledge and expertise. More so, Mrs. Smith Clarke is passionate about developing students' craft and talent, ensuring that each learner is given the opportunity to grow, excel, and become a productive member of society. Through her teaching, she strives to create an environment that encourages creativity, discipline, and professional growth within the cosmetology field. Her key responsibilities also include organizing practical assessments, managing salon laboratory resources, and guiding students in developing creativity and innovation through hair care, nail care and skin care techniques.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Smith Clarke has demonstrated a strong commitment to student development and innovation in TVET education. She has organized and facilitated educational trips, workshops, conferences, competition and industry exposure activities to broaden students' learning experiences to strategically contribute to the development of the economy by preparing individuals to become skilled, knowledgeable, and well-equipped professionals within the workforce. Her students have also participated in hair shows and events that were featured on Smile Jamaica (Television Jamaica), highlighting their creativity and technical skills. These students were also awarded for their creativity. Among her notable initiatives is a recycling project involving the creation of plastic nails, which also, she had received awards/medal at the JCDC competition was presented at the Jamaica Public Service Company conference and at Merl Grove High School in Kingston. This innovative project integrates sustainability with cosmetology practices. Building on this work, Mrs. Smith Clarke will present on "Recycling Nails in relation to 'Steamifying TVET: Transforming STEAM Through TVET Integration'" at the Jamaica Teachers' Association Annual Conference 2026, showcasing how creative recycling initiatives can support STEAM learning within TVET programmed.



## Mr. Kirk Smith

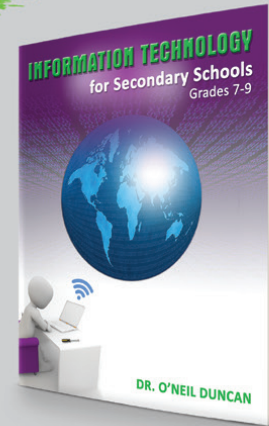
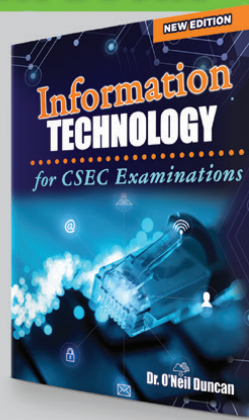
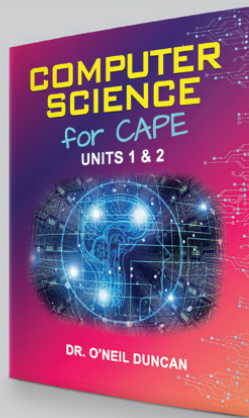
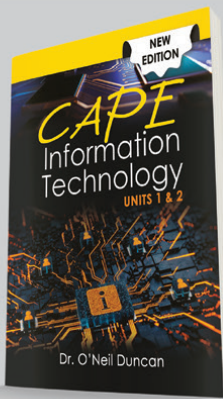
HOD, Industrial Arts  
Marcus Garvey Technical High School

### **The theme: Future - Proofing Education in Times of Crisis: Advancing STEAM and TVET to Sustain Innovation, Resilience and Recovery.**

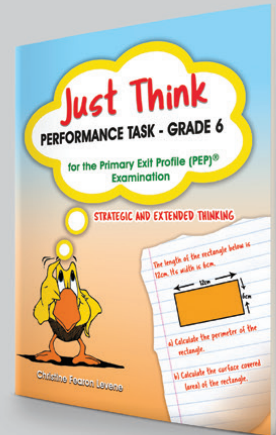
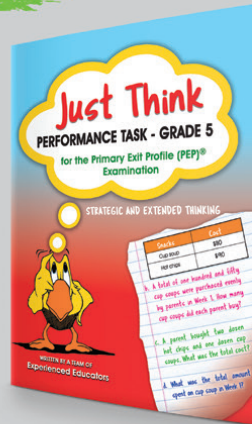
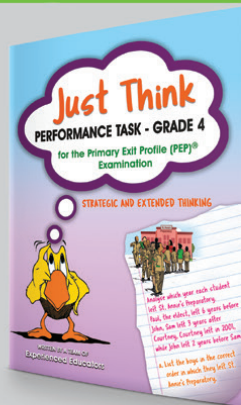
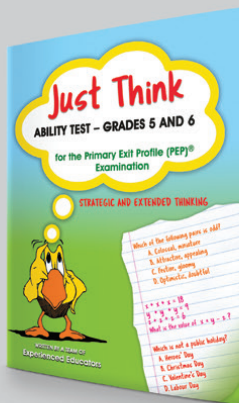
Kirk Smith is an enthusiastic and highly dedicated Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) educator with over nine years of teaching experience at the Marcus Garvey Technical High School in Jamaica. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Technology (Construction Specialization), Second Class Honours, from the Vocational Training Development Institute (VTDI). His vision is to equip students to become highly skilled, motivated, and innovative learners who are confident in applying practical solutions to real-world challenges. Throughout his career, Kirk has distinguished himself as a passionate advocate for competency-based education, consistently empowering students to develop practical skills, critical thinking abilities, and the professional mindset needed to succeed in technical trades and modern industry. This has been manifested in students under his supervision entering and capturing prizes at WorldSkills Jamaica, and others are gainfully employed in the construction and services industry.

As Head of the Industrial Technology Department, he provides strong and visionary leadership in curriculum development, instructional innovation, and the promotion of safe, effective workshop practices. He is deeply committed to transforming how technical subjects are taught by integrating creativity, problem-solving, and real-world application into the classroom. It is worth noting that he has collaborated with other departments within the school and is currently recycling discarded materials to create environmentally friendly products. Some of these products have been showcased at the STEAM in Action Expo, Merl Grove High School Expo, among others. At the 2026 JTA Conference, he will be presenting on the theme "*STEAMIFYING TVET: Transforming STEAM Through TVET Integration*," where he will share practical strategies for bridging academic learning with technical skills to inspire student engagement, innovation, and future-ready careers.

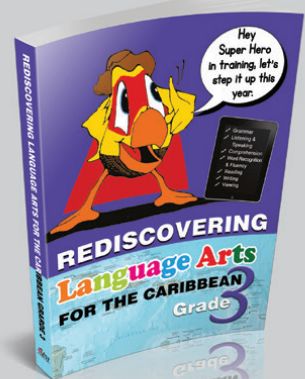
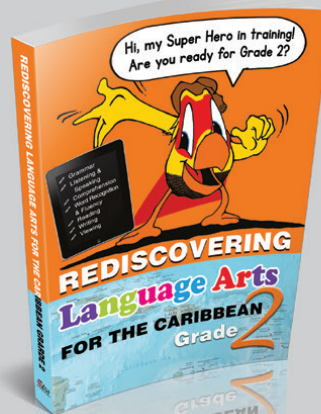
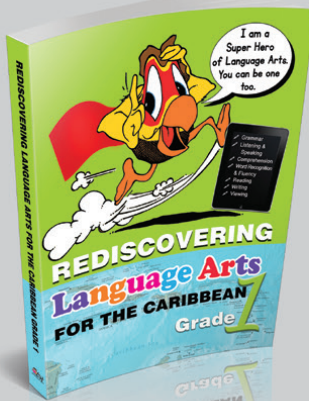
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**Kevin Coke**  
Teacher  
Herbert Morrison High School

“God and nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own created genius we make ourselves what we want to be. “Follow always that great law,” by Marcus Garvey became the motto of Mr Kevin Coke ever since he discovered that his greatness beamed from within. The dream of becoming a trained Mechanical Technology and Electrical Technology teacher, much more an honored University of Technology graduate was unimaginable, being the austere middle child of six siblings raised in the farming community of Garlands Saint James.

However, Mr Paul Adams, Principal of his alma-mater Herbert Morrison Technical High school uncovered the light within Mr Kevin Coke as a pre-trained teacher after he completed 6th form. The opportunity to luster certainly unearthed his natural ability to motivate and inspire the many students he tutelage.

With his newfound passion, teaching became a called purpose to impact lives through educating young minds to, “Critically think creatively towards collaborative inventions, create to generate for the future.” Therefore, Mr Kevin Coke caught onto the vision of STEM education before it became an endorsed methodology by the Ministry of

Education and Youth (MOEY), to better engage the students and enhance their development in a technologically advanced globalized era.

Mr Kevin Coke is an honoree of several awards such as the Lasco TVET Teacher of the year 2019, The Jamaica Teaching Council (JTC) Award for Excellence in Teaching, Herbert.

Morrison Technical High Teacher of the year and 1st Place in the Caribbean Region in CSEC Electrical and Electronics Technology 2021-2022 Exams.

Mr Coke is also an outstanding motivational leader and founder of the business venture GENR8-3D. As a loving husband and guide to so many, his dream is to see all teachers well-rounded, capable and dedicated towards training enlightened young minds. Minds to not only compete in a technologically advanced world but develop Jamaica through thinking critically and creatively towards collaborative inventions, that will generate solutions for cultural problems embraced as opportunities to create value and ultimately success.



## **Dr Philmore McCarthy**

**Principal  
Excelsior Community College & Member  
Tertiary Committee**

Dr. Philmore McCarthy is an accomplished educational leader with nearly four decades of experience in academic administration, institutional development, and ICT-driven transformation. He currently leads Excelsior Community College (ECC), where his strategic direction has strengthened academic quality assurance, expanded research capacity, and advanced technology integration across teaching and learning. Under his leadership, ECC achieved both ISO 9001:2015

certification and institutional accreditation from the University Council of Jamaica.

Holding a PhD in Education and Leadership, an MBA, and a BSc in Electronics and Mathematics, Dr. McCarthy has cultivated impactful international partnerships and contributed to national ICT training initiatives. Alongside his academic work, he serves as a Justice of the Peace and has founded successful enterprises in telecommunications and ICT consultancy.



## **Mrs. Kristina Francis**

**Dean of the College of Occupational and Applied Studies  
UTECH, Jamaica**

Kristina Francis is a dedicated and vibrant educator with over 16 years of experience teaching architecture and construction-related courses. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Career and Technical Education, specializing in Industrial Technology at the University of Technology, Jamaica. Her work focuses on empowering students through practical skills development, mentorship, innovative teaching practices, and strong industry-aligned training. At Excelsior Community College, she plays an active role in academic and co-curricular life, serving as an advisor for the Engineering and Robotics Club and contributing to both the Community Empowerment Unit and the Curriculum Development, Teaching and Learning Unit. In addition to her academic role, she prepares Residential Building Plans and tutors students in CSEC Technical Drawing, further extending her impact beyond the classroom. She is also an author of the book *God's Will for You*, reflecting her passion

for personal growth and spiritual guidance, and serves as a mentor within the Mentor Association of Jamaica.

Beyond her professional commitments, Kristina is deeply engaged in service and personal development. She serves as a Sunday School teacher and Assistant Supervisor for students aged 10 to 18, and is also a member of the Training and Spiritual Development Unit within her church. As a missionary, she is actively involved in outreach, including visiting and supporting senior citizens. Married for nine years, she values balance between her personal, spiritual, and professional life. Kristina is a strong advocate for innovation and lifelong learning, continually striving to grow while inspiring others to reach their fullest potential.





## Dr Prim Lewis

Chairman  
Special Education Committee, JTA

This educator has been actively practicing her craft for the past 35 years, serving the Jamaican education system as classroom teacher, senior teacher, vice principal and principal. She is currently Principal of the Dioceses of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, deCarteret College, High School in Mandeville, Manchester, the first female to be appointed in that post.

Dr. Lewis believes in motivating individuals and succession planning. She is always pushing team members out of their comfort zone. She is passionate about education, her mantra being, "Wherever, I serve, I must make a difference".

She received her pedagogical training at The MICO Teachers' University College- (Teaching Diploma)-1992, and the Nova Southeastern University (B.Sc. in Teaching and Learning)-2005. She later pursued a post graduate degree in leadership at Nova (Master's Degree in Management and Administration of Educational Programs)-2010.

She is a Nova Girl so she is so in love with Nova, that she went back to Nova, and pursued a Doctorate in Education, Specializing in Special Education.

Dr. Lewis has an illustrious leadership career, beginning at Naggo Head Primary where she acted as Senior Teacher and Vice Principal, later transitioning to Schoolfield Primary and Infant, where she transformed Numeracy and Literacy from 33 and 44 percent to 73 and 94 percent in 1 year and 6 months.

She led the Transition at Aberdeen Primary and Junior High School to High School status in 2017, where

she initiated numerous programmes. She also had students successfully sitting external examinations at the Grade 9 level. Dr. Lewis is the National Chairman of the Special Education Committee of the JTA.

She has presented at numerous professional development activities across Jamaica.

Dr. Lewis has received numerous educational awards inclusive of the JTC Teacher of Excellence award, (twice) and the LASCO Principal of the Year 1st Runner-up award 2016-17, USAID/MoEY Most Outstanding Principal for Reading Outcomes, and The Junior Achievement Jamaica/USAID 2018 Champions for Youth JACE Seed Award-2018.

She currently serves as Board Chair for the Great Start Academy, in Junction, St. Elizabeth; she is one of the founding members and Board of the Women in Law Foundation (Yes, You heard/read right - Law) which seeks to support young women with educational pursuits; and recently found her own Foundation to support education and community (A Balancing Act Education and Community Services Foundation). She is the PRO for Association of Principals and Vice Principals (APVP) and is a member of the Board of the Overseas, Examination Commission (OEC) representing the JTA.

Dr. Lewis is married to George Lewis and is a Boy-Mom to her two sons Ramon and Khaliel Lewis. She enjoys playing scrabble and is the serving people.

Her mantra is, 'Wherever I go, I must make a difference'.





## Lamar Robert Wellington

Lecturer  
Caribbean Maritime Institute

**Lamar Robert Wellington** is an educator and entrepreneur who has dedicated his career to technical education, leadership, and industrial development. Born and raised in Red Lands, Clarendon, Jamaica, Mr. Wellington began his educational journey at Edwin Allen High School, where he developed a strong interest in technical and industrial studies.

He later pursued higher education at The Mico University College, where he majored in Industrial Technology with a specialization in **Mechanical Engineering Technology**. Committed to advancing his knowledge and leadership capacity in education, he continued his studies at University of the West Indies, earning a Master's degree in Leadership in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Workforce Development.

Mr. Wellington began his professional teaching career at Excelsior High School, where he taught **Mechanical Engineering** and **Industrial Techniques**. During his time there, he played an active role in school life and student development. His contributions included serving as **manager**

**for the Under-14 and Under-16 football teams, house sponsor, JTA staff representative, Grade 10 supervisor**, and a member of several school committees. Through these roles, he demonstrated strong leadership and mentorship, helping to shape both the academic and extracurricular experiences of many students.

Currently, Mr. Wellington serves as a lecturer at Caribbean Maritime University, where he continues to contribute to the development of technical and vocational education. He also works as a part-time instructor at HEART/NTA, sharing his expertise and practical industry knowledge with a wider community of learners.

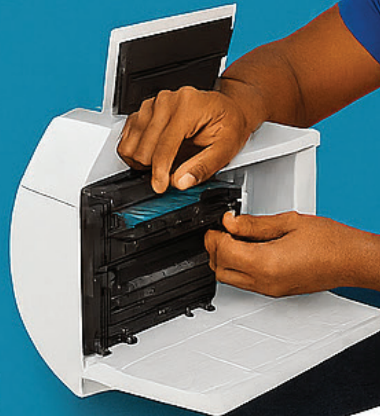
In addition to his career in education, Mr. Wellington is a successful entrepreneur. He is the founder and manager of Welli Welding, a metal fabrication company specializing in structural and residential metalwork fabrication. Through this business, he combines technical expertise with entrepreneurship to provide quality fabrication services while contributing to the local construction and manufacturing sectors.

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## Dr Valri Morgan

Head of Department  
Mico University College

Dr. Valri L. Morgan is a Senior Lecturer and assessment leader at Mico University College, where she serves as Head of the Assessment Unit and has held roles including Dean of the Faculty of Education and Head of Department for Secondary Education and Professional Studies. She holds a Ph.D. and M. Phil in Assessment, Evaluation and Accountability (Walden University), an MPhil in Assessment, Evaluation and Accountability (Walden University, 2020), and an M.A. in Heritage Studies (University of the West Indies).

Her professional work centers on assessment design, programme review, and the alignment of curriculum, instruction, and evaluation to improve teaching

and learning. Valri has coordinated curriculum design projects, supervised undergraduate and graduate research, and led faculty-level assessment coordination and quality-assurance initiatives.

Dr. Morgan is also active in community and professional outreach, delivering workshops on alternative assessment, practicum mentoring, and action research. In conference settings she focuses on evidence-informed assessment practices and capacity-building for educators. She is committed to fostering valid, equitable, and standards-aligned assessment systems that support teacher development and student success.



## Mrs. Shellon Samuels-White

Assessment Officer  
Mico University College

Shellon Samuels-White is a lecturer in the Faculty of Education and the University Student Assessment Officer at The Mico University College. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Teacher Education and a Master of Arts in Education (Curriculum and Instruction), and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in Educational Practice and Innovation. Her professional work and research focus on curriculum transformation and the alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to support student success. She has a particular interest in redesigning assessment practices to ensure validity, fairness,

and responsiveness to diverse learners, including the integration of social-emotional learning within assessments.

In her role as Assessment Officer, she champions quality assurance processes and promotes authentic and standards-aligned assessment practices across the institution. Shellon is deeply committed to advancing innovative educational practices that prepare learners for lifelong learning and meaningful participation in a rapidly evolving world.





## Sonia Bennett Anderson

Publishing Manager  
Carlong Publishers

Sonia Bennett Anderson is the Publishing Manager/Educational Technologist at Carlong Publishers (Caribbean) Limited and a specialist in Caribbean K–12 and TVET curriculum development with over four decades of experience spanning classroom teaching, educational technology, institutional leadership, and publishing. She holds an MA in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University and is completing an EdD in Educational Leadership at Delaware State University, with her dissertation examining the readiness of educational leaders to lead technology integration in Jamaican high schools. She has co-authored five textbooks for the Jamaican education system and serves as a publishing consultant for the Commonwealth of Learning, where she has led capacity-building work with TVET content creators across Jamaica, Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya.

Mrs Bennett Anderson has developed pedagogical frameworks for transforming traditional, content-heavy curricula into activity-centred, competency-driven learning experiences – work grounded in the conviction that the gap between knowing and doing must be deliberately designed out of educational materials. Her frameworks, applied across disciplines ranging from core subjects at the primary level to garment construction and analytical chemistry in TVET education, operationalize the shift from rote to applied learning that lies at the heart of the conference presentation. A committed mentor and institutional leader, she currently serves on the Board of Directors of Infiniti Co-operative Credit Union and is actively shaping the next generation of educational publishing professionals in the Caribbean.





## Dionne Somers-Campbell

Education Officer – Theatre Arts & Drama  
Ministry of Education, Youth, Skills & Information

Dionne Somers-Campbell was born in the Parish of Portland where she grew up and got her earliest levels of education. She was a lover of the Arts even then and started participating in the festival of the Arts in primary school in the areas of Music, Dance and Speech. At Titchfield High she choose to specialise in one area of the Arts – Dance, where she won many awards for her school and community groups in the areas of Modern contemporary, Jazz and Traditional folk forms.

After High school she Won 1st runner up as Ms. Portland Festival Queen and later that year entered the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts where she pursued a career in Drama in Education with an elective in Dance. Her teaching Career started at St. Catherine High school and she later moved to Papine High

school. She upgraded to a 1st degree in Drama in Education and started lecturing full time at St. Joseph’s Teachers’ College and part time at Shortwood Teachers’ College and later completed a Masters of Arts in Teaching at the Mico College University.

Currently she is an Education Officer in the Ministry of Education and Youth with responsibility for Theatre Arts. Her core responsibilities are writing, implementing and monitoring the Drama, Theatre and Performing Arts curriculum and syllabi for all schools in Jamaica.

She is married with four sons, a leader in her church and a good friend to many. She is jovial, focused, and hardworking. She knows what she is about but still very young and young at heart.





## **Kadie-Ann Gregwah**

**Regional Training Officer  
e-Learning Jamaica**

Kadie-Ann Gregwah is an experienced educator and project specialist with a strong background in technology integration. She holds degrees from The Mico University, the University of Technology, and the University of South Wales.

With a teaching career spanning both primary and high school levels, Kadie-Ann has been

instrumental in shaping educational delivery in Jamaica. She has dedicated a significant portion of her career to e-Learning Jamaica, serving as a Project Implementation Officer, Regional Training Officer, and Trainer for the Ministry of Education's New Standard Curriculum. Her expertise lies in teacher training, and the implementation of digital learning initiatives to enhance education.



## **Sanjay Dixon**

**Regional Training Officer  
e-Learning Jamaica**

Sanjay Dixon is an experienced educator with a solid background in business and technology education and Regional Trainer for e-Learning Jamaica Company Limited. A proud graduate of Mico University College and the University of Technology, she holds a Diploma in Secondary

Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Computer Studies. With over nine years of teaching and training experience, Sanjay is passionate about promoting critical thinking and digital literacy, equipping learners to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.



## Garfield Morrison

Regional Training Officer  
E-Learning Jamaica

Garfield Morrison is a trained engineering professional with a B.Sc. in Engineering Technology and a Certificate in Project Management.

With experience in electrical and renewable energy, he has worked with the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica and Conserve It Jamaica. He has also served as a part-time lecturer at the Excelsior

Community College and currently works as a Regional Training Officer at e-Learning Jamaica Company Limited. In this role, he supports teachers and students island-wide, promoting the use of emerging technologies to enhance digital learning and 21st century education.



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## **Nadine Barrett Maitland**

**Senior Lecturer**

**Faculty of Engineering and Computing, Utech Jamaica**

Dr. Nadine Barrett-Maitland is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Computing and Information Technology at the University of Technology (UTech). She holds a PhD. in Computer Science from the University of the West Indies Mona, a MSc in Computer Science from the UWI, Mona and a B.Sc. in Computer Studies with Management from the University of Technology Jamaica.

Her research area is Information Security, Artificial Intelligence and issues related to the use of Information Technology to improve lives. A prolific writer and researcher, Dr. Barrett-Maitland has several published works in peer review Journals, Conferences proceedings and Book Chapters. She is also a regular guest columnist in the Jamaica Gleaner newspaper. A well sought-after Guest Speaker, she engages her audiences across the region on many topics relating to computer science, information technology, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity among other areas.

Dr. Barret-Maitland has been involved in numerous professional activities notably, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, Health Care Management Conference, “Artificial Intelligence and Health Care Delivery Management” held in 2023; Project Co-ordinator University of Technology for the official visit of The Deputy President of the World Bank for Latin America and Caribbean Region, Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, in 2019; Project Manager (UTech.), Animation International Conference (KingstOON) held at University of Technology and CARICOM Consultant, Team UTECH for developing Strategic Plan for ICT services in CARICOM and CARIFORUM for the period 2016 -2018. She has also received several faculty awards for her outstanding work in student mentorship and within the School of Computing and Information Technology.

A devout Christian, she has an unquenchable thirst for learning, writing, teaching and conducting research. Dr. Barrett-Maitland is the proud mother of three children.



## Dr. Colin Wolfe

JDTAN and School Administrator

**DR. COLLIN MONTGOMERY WOLFE** hails from the district of Harry Watch, in the parish of Manchester, Jamaica, West Indies. He is one of three children to the parentage of the late Reverend Earnest Albert Wolfe, and Mrs. Inez Citira Wolfe - an educator. Upon his having graduated from the Mico Teachers' College, and later from the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Collin taught at one of Kingston's more prestigious high schools for girls, prior to his having migrated to the United States of America where he currently resides.

The scope and trajectory of Collin's career as an educator has been prolific. He has earned multiple graduate and post graduate degrees, including a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership, as well as several post-doctoral certifications in related disciplines and specialties.

For thirty-five consecutive years Collin was employed by the New York City Department of Education, where he earned the reputation of being a renowned educator and instructional leader. In that context he served as classroom teacher, city-wide staff developer, school-based management / shared decision-making facilitator, new teacher trainer, as well as a coach and instructor for the New York City Department of Education's International Teachers' Program. He coached and developed

aspiring and in-service vice-principals and principals, in the area of Instructional Leadership and Organizational Management. Between 2002 and 2008 he was also assigned the role of Lead Cluster Principal in District Nine of The Bronx, New York.

Pursuant to his recent retirement from the New York City Department of Education, Collin has pursued a lifelong goal in education consultation. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Pro-Knowledge Consultancy, and provides direct support to clients in Educational Leadership, as well as in Organizational Management and Operations. His reputation as an effective practitioner has earned him clients in places far beyond the shores of the United States of America. Concurrently, he serves as chairman of the Primary and Secondary Task Force of The Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN), where he works collaboratively with several like-minded colleagues under the capable leadership of Dr. Leo Gilling.

Collin happily serves on several community-oriented boards and is actively engaged in a variety of civic and humanitarian initiatives. He is now the president of the Mico Old Students' Association, New York Chapter; but most of all, he absolutely delights in upholding his Christian faith in the role of Eucharistic Minister within his church.



## Dr. Mugwena Maluleke

General Secretary  
South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU)

Dr. Mugwena Maluleke is the General Secretary of SADTU. He has passionately and compassionately served the Union for more than 25 years in various positions – from branch to national levels.

**As part of serving humanity, Mugwena has occupied the following positions:**

He was recently elected the President for Education International during its World Congress in 2024 serving 32-million teachers and education support personnel around the globe. He previously served EI as Vice President in the African Region since 2015.

He serves public servants as a trustee of the Government Employee Pension Fund (GEPF) board and as non-executive director of the board of the Public Investment Corporation (PIC).

His previous roles include Deputy Chairperson of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), Convenor of the Commonwealth Teacher Grouping (CTG) and the Convenor of the South African Public Service Trade Unions on collective bargaining.

He continues to be a scholar, recently obtaining his doctoral studies in Labour Law (LLD) and pursuing another doctorate in Business Management (DBA).

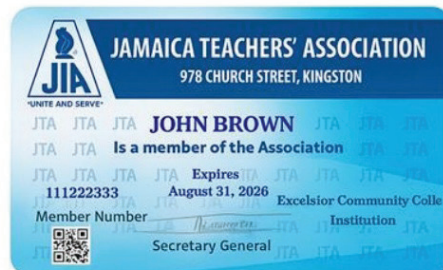
He has facilitated several domestic and international round table webinars in defense of democracy, anti-racism, trade, and human rights and has co-published more than six peer reviewed articles / papers in education.

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## Dr. Fedrick Ingram

Secretary Treasurer,  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

Dr. Fedrick C. Ingram is the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers, serving 1.7 million members, including pre-K through 12th-grade teachers, paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel, higher education faculty and professional staff, federal, state and local government employees as well as nurses and other healthcare professionals.

Dr. Ingram grew up in inner-city Miami, where he attended public schools. Pursuing his love of music, he attended Bethune-Cookman University on a scholarship and became the first member of his family to earn a postsecondary degree in music education. He would later move on to become a music teacher and Band Director in Miami-Dade public schools for 10 years. Dr. Ingram is also an accomplished musician in his own right and has performed throughout the state and nationally as a saxophone soloist and conductor. He was named the **Francisco R. Walker Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year** in 2006, and in that same year, was a finalist for the **Florida Teacher of the Year** award.

In 2013, he was elected President of the United Teachers of Dade, which represents employees of the fourth-largest school district in the nation. He held that post until 2015, when he was elected Vice President of the Florida Education Association (FEA), where he became a bridge-builder and

fearless advocate for public education, the joy of learning, and the importance of the arts in education. He was later elected as President of the FEA in 2018. Since becoming Secretary-Treasurer in 2020, Dr. Ingram has amplified the voices of AFT members nationwide, particularly on education, labour and racial justice. In April 2023, President Joe Biden appointed him to the **Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans**.

A well sought-after speaker, lecturer and presenter, Dr. Ingram is recognized nationally for his workshops and presentations on community organizing and coalition building. The Miami Herald's Legacy Miami magazine named Dr. Ingram as one of South Florida's 50 most powerful Black business leaders in 2013. He is a recipient of the prestigious **JM Family African-American Achievers Award**, given to leaders who have exemplified excellence in their fields.

In addition to his Bachelor's degree, Dr. Ingram earned a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Barry University and received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Florida Memorial University. He is married to Yvetta Ingram, and they have three children, all of whom have graduated from public schools and colleges.



## Sharon Kelsick

President,  
Caribbean Union of Teachers

Sharon Kelsick is a distinguished educator and administrator known for her disciplined leadership and unwavering commitment to academic excellence. As the **Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda National Accreditation Board**, she spearheads the quality assurance and registration standards that shape the nation's tertiary landscape.

With over 18 years of experience as a Spanish educator and a former tenure as Deputy Principal of the Princess Margaret School, Mrs. Kelsick bridges the gap between classroom practice and systemic oversight. A technical visionary, she serves as a **Google Workspace Super Administrator**, leading the digital transformation of Google Workspace for Education across both public and private sectors in Antigua and Barbuda.

Her influence extends regionally through her roles as **President of the Caribbean Union of Teachers** and General Secretary of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers.

Mrs. Kelsick holds a Bachelor's in Educational Leadership and Management from the University of the West Indies and an M.S. in Education (Education Technology) from Walden University. She is currently a doctoral candidate pursuing a **Doctor of Public Administration**. Beyond her professional accolades, she is a devoted wife and mother of three who credits her success to her faith and her dedication to maintaining a healthy work-life harmony.





## Dr. Dwayne Dyce

CEO, Education Solutions International

**Dr. Dwayne Dyce** is the Founder/CEO of Education Solutions International (ESI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in New York City with partners and collaborators globally.

Dr. Dyce's expertise in education derives from both his diverse classroom experience as a Math and Science teacher in various private and public schools in Jamaica, Florida, Washington DC, and New York City. His leadership experience spans across implementing and leading various programs in schools including mentorship programs for students and teachers, advising on professional development and Equity & Belonging work, conducting candidate interviews on hiring committees, as well as his extensive educational leadership work within the Caribbean and Central American Diaspora. For this work, Dr. Dyce received

the JTA Excellence Award for Distinguished Service to Nation Building in Education in May 2021 and the UJAA Diaspora Leadership in Education Award by the Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations in December 2021.

Dr. Dyce earned a BEd from Catholic College in Mandeville; both a MA in Educational Leadership and a MEd in Teaching and Learning from St. Mary's University of Minnesota; a Doctor of Education in Leadership and Management from St. Thomas University; a MEd in School Building Leadership from Teachers College Columbia University; a K-12 School Superintendent License from Minnesota State University, Mankato; and a Professional Certificate in Leadership and Innovation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).





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# EDUCATION CONFERENCE

## MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE 2026

- |                                      |   |  |
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| <b>Dr. Margaret Chin</b>             | - | <b>Asst. Secretary General, Professional Services, JTA &amp; Chairman, Programmes Committee</b>          |
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| <b>Mrs. Andrea Bryan Hughes</b>      | - | <b>Chairman, Professional Advancement &amp; Teacher Welfare Committee (PAC), JTA</b>                     |
| <b>Dr. Prim Lewis</b>                | - | <b>Chairman, Special Education Committee, JTA</b>  |
| <b>Dr. Maureen Nelson</b>            | - | <b>Chairman, Tertiary Committee, JTA</b>   |
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| <b>Mr. Wilbert Nunes</b>             | - | <b>Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Jamaica</b>   |
| <b>Mrs. Monique Jackson Reynolds</b> | - | <b>STEAM Specialist and Lecturer, Dept of Language, Literacy and Literature, Mico University College</b> |
| <b>Mr. Archibald Gordon</b>          | - | <b>Director of Marketing and Communications - Caribbean Maritime University</b>                          |
| <b>Mrs. Davia Bryan Campbell</b>     | - | <b>CEO, Edu Hub Learning</b>   |





# JAMAICA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION EDUCATION WEEK 2026

## **SUNDAY, MAY 3**

**National Church Service** at Buff Bay Independent Baptist Church

## **MONDAY, MAY 4**

**National Symposium** (Venue TBC shortly)

## **TUESDAY, MAY 5**

**JTA Read Across Jamaica Day**

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6**

**Teachers' Day**

## **THURSDAY, MAY 7**

**Helen Stills Professional Development Day**

## **FRIDAY, MAY 8**

**Corporate Companies Appreciation for Teachers**

## **SATURDAY, MAY 9**

**Reserved for participation of Adventist Groups**

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# Calendar of Activities



## APRIL 2026

6-12	Easter Tours - Disney
7-9	Education Conference – Princess Grand, Hanover
17	HEART STEM/TVET Expo
22 & 24	Finance & Central Executive
26	Vilma Lawes 5kWalk/Run

## MAY 2026

3	Church Service [North East] - Buff Bay Independent Baptist
4	Proclamation [Alternate Day]
5	JTA Read Across Jamaica Day
6	Teachers' Day
7	Helen Stills' Professional Development Day Officers' and Administrative Staff Meeting JTA / MoESYI Meeting
25	Labour Day Project
26	Special Education Conference
20 & 29	Finance & Central Executive Meetings
21	Parish Annual General Meetings – Hanover, Westmorland, St. Elizabeth
28	Kingston parish meeting

## JUNE 2026

5	Parish Annual General Meetings – St. Mary, Portland, St. Thomas
11	Parish Annual General Meetings -St. Ann, Trelawny, St. James
12	Parish Annual General Meetings – Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine
15-19	President-Elect Elections
26/27	JTA/Sagicor Championships

## JULY 2026

1	Golden Torch Award Presentation Ceremony - AC hotel, Kingston
5-11	JDTAN
6-8	Administrative Staff Retreat
7-17	Summer Tours
22 & 24	Finance & Central Executive Meetings

## AUGUST 2026

17- 19	Annual Conference - Ocean Coral Springs- Trelawny
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