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Monroe College Helps More than 100 Local Residents Secure New Jobs Aboard Cruise Ships at College's Largest Job Fair Event Ever Held in St. Lucia

Graduates from the International Hospitality Training Institute Will Soon Begin their Careers at Sea with Royal Caribbean Cruises

CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA, June 6, 2022 – [Monroe College](#), the U.S.-based institution offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs from its campus in Castries, recently held a highly successful job fair event for students who had completed their career training at its International Hospitality Training Institute. More than 100 local residents are about to set sail with exciting new careers on cruise ships as a result.

Earlier this month, Marie Johnny-Dantes, program coordinator for Monroe College's International Hospitality Training Institute, was contacted by Royal Caribbean Cruises. With vacationers returning to cruise travel following the pandemic, the company needed well-trained, confident, job-ready employees for entry-level positions on its cruise ships traveling the world. Royal Caribbean had had prior success with graduates of the Institute and was hoping to interview more.

Within a matter of days, Ms. Johnny had contacted the Institute's available graduates and invited them to attend a massive job fair with Royal Caribbean at the Institute's location in Vieux Fort. Of the 118 graduates who interviewed, 114 received offer letters from Royal Caribbean – an incredible success rate of more than 96%!

The Institute, led by Ms. Johnny-Dantes, then worked with the graduates and Royal Caribbean to help the students prepare for their new roles, helping to expedite passport renewal processing for impacted job candidates, and securing doctors to provide the necessary medical testing and pre-employment drug screening. The St. Lucian government was incredibly helpful throughout the process and the College extends its great appreciation for that continued support and partnership.

Marc Jerome, president of Monroe College, said: "Royal Caribbean has a solid reputation for customer service and hospitality excellence and we are so proud that they turned to the Institute to find new employees ready to meet their high standards. Our graduates have the required training, confidence, and job-readiness and will do very well. We wish them great success with their new jobs at sea."

Working with St. Lucia's National Apprenticeship Programme, the College created the International Hospitality Training Institute to provide a pathway for local residents to train for entry-level hospitality and tourism sector jobs, a mainstay of the country's economy. It opened in October 2018, providing training to several hundred St. Lucians before the pandemic forced it to suspend operations in March 2020.

With the pandemic waning and demand as strong as ever in the region for workers well-prepared for entry-level hospitality positions, Monroe College – in partnership with the Government of Saint Lucia-- is seeking to reopen the International Hospitality Training Institute later this year on its campus on Vide Boutielle Highway in Castries.

The Institute will once again offer five certificate programs, with training on professionalism and the essential "soft skills" that hospitality employers demand incorporated into each track. The available programs are: Bartending, Event Planning and Logistics, Front Office / Guest Services, Food & Beverage Service, and Housekeeping. The program will be open to residents throughout the Caribbean region, with priority admission granted to St. Lucia residents.

The Institute was very successful from the beginning, with nearly all of the 131 students in the Institute's inaugural class securing entry-level jobs within their area of study prior to graduation day. That job placement success held steady for subsequent cohorts until the pandemic required that the Institute suspend classes.

Monroe College celebrated its twelfth anniversary in St. Lucia last year. The St. Lucia campus, located on Vide Boutielle Highway in Castries, offers students from the Caribbean a broad array of educational opportunities through programs offered through Monroe's Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business & Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Hospitality Management, and Information Technology.

ABOUT MONROE COLLEGE

Founded in 1933, Monroe College is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The College is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives in the U.S. for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Monroe educates 8,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of St. Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online.

Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroecollege.edu>.