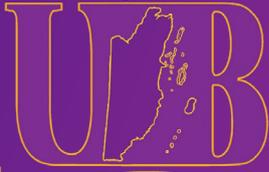


University of Belize

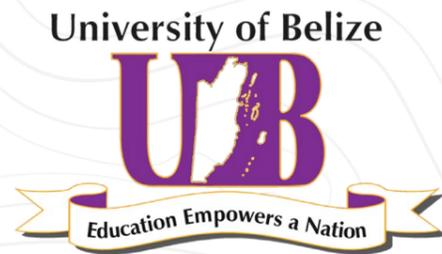


Education Empowers a Nation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

*Let your future start with us!*





This 2022-2023 Annual Report is a publication of the Office of Marketing and Communications of the University of Belize.

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**Calabash Caye Field Station**  
Turneffe Atolls  
Central Belize

**Hunting Caye Field Station**  
Hunting Caye  
Sapodilla Range  
Southern Belize

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University of Belize



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## PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the University of Belize (UB), where the pursuit of knowledge is an immersive experience that transforms lives. Our commitment to teaching and learning extends beyond the classroom, fostering an environment where curiosity is nurtured and creativity flourishes. With dedicated faculty and a supportive community, we empower students to explore, innovate, and grow, preparing them not just for careers but as lifelong learners and global citizens.

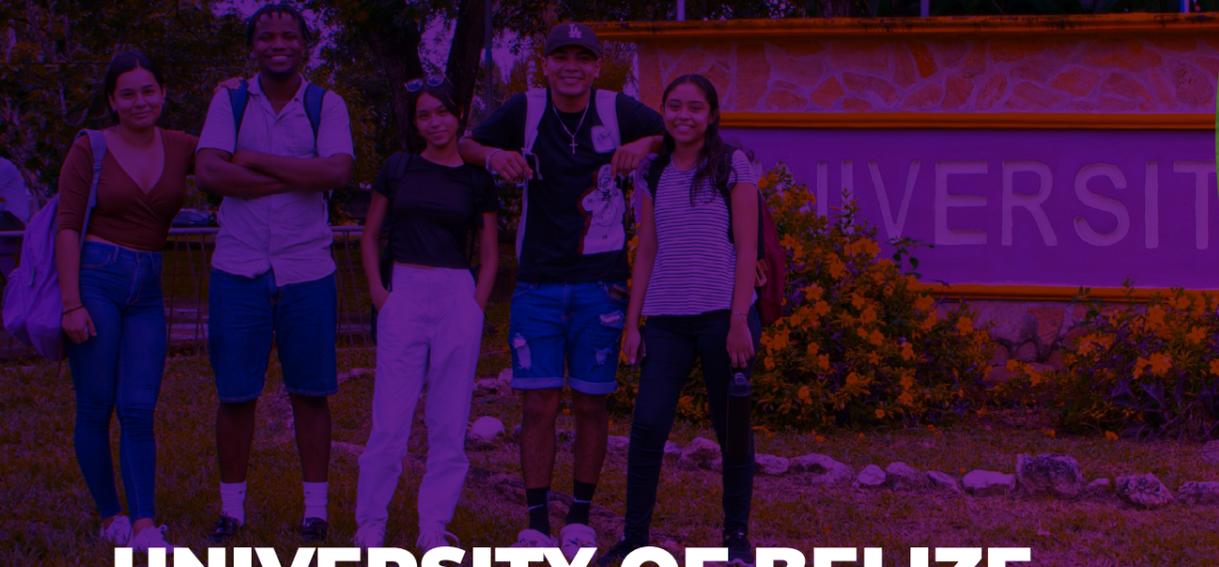
Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, our high-quality education has equipped students with the necessary skills for success in a dynamic world. We have continuously refined our curriculum, expanded our e-campus, and enhanced our programs to ensure relevance and adaptability. Our goal of achieving Institutional International Accreditation reflects our commitment to global standards and student-centered excellence.

We celebrated student initiatives such as the Natural Products Expo and the GIS Day Symposium, which highlighted innovation and leadership within our student body. We honored our cultural heritage through events like Garifuna Survival Day and Earth Day celebrations, emphasizing environmental sustainability and cultural pride.

Student life at UB remained vibrant, offering diverse opportunities for growth, exploration, and engagement. Our Service Learning Initiative fostered civic responsibility and community contribution, enriching the student experience and strengthening community bonds.

Through these efforts, UB has remained dedicated to providing an enriching, dynamic, and inclusive educational experience, nurturing well-rounded graduates ready to thrive globally.

*Let your future start with us!*



## UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE AT A GLANCE



## ENROLLMENT BY CAMPUS

### OUR MISSION

The University of Belize is a national, autonomous and multi-location institution committed to excellence in higher education, research and service for national development.

As a catalyst of change, it provides relevant, affordable and accessible educational and training programs that address national needs based on principles of academic freedom, equity, transparency, merit and accountability.”

### OUR VISION

In the next five years, the University of Belize is dedicated to fostering Belize’s development by producing graduates who are socially and ecologically responsible, analytical, self-confident, disciplined, ethical, entrepreneurial, and skilled communicators and who are committed to using these skills and values for Belize’s enrichment.

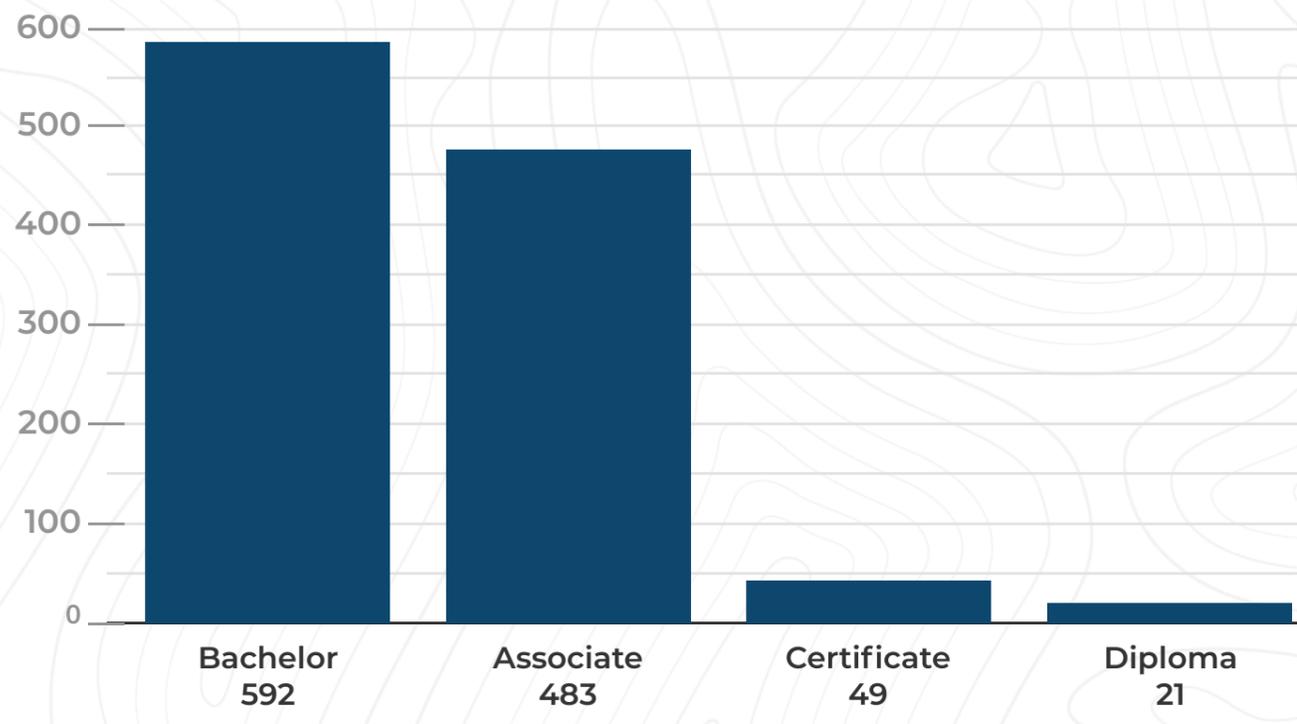
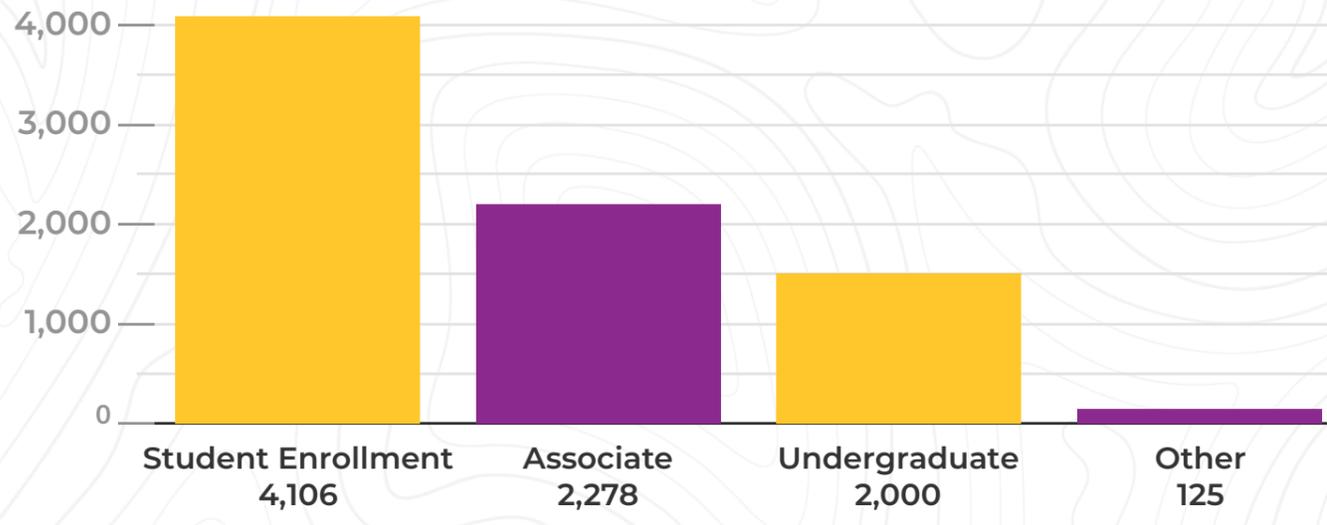
**2,353**  
BELMOPAN

**259**  
PUNTA GORDA

**125**  
CENTRAL FARM

**1,261**  
BELIZE  
CITY

**196**  
ONLINE



**67%** Female - 763

**33%** Male - 382

**Total Graduates - 1,145**



- STAFF**  
204
- FACULTY**  
114
- FULL-TIME FACULTY**  
113



## OUR FOUR R's

(RELEVANCE, RESPONSIVENESS, REACH, RESPONSIBILITY)

### RELEVANCE

Offering students, a global education where they are and where they want to go.

### RESPONSIVENESS

Meeting the current and future national needs through innovation, outreach, service and research.

### REACH

Engaging with and strengthening our communities, enabling our partners and enhancing our enterprises, both local and international

### RESPONSIBILITY

Meeting the current and future national needs through innovation, outreach, service and research.

## TEACHING, LEARNING, & THE UB EXPERIENCE

At the University of Belize, the pursuit of knowledge is not just a journey but an immersive experience that transforms lives. Our commitment to teaching and learning extends beyond the classroom, fostering an environment where curiosity is nurtured and creativity flourishes. With dedicated faculty members who are experts in their fields and a supportive learning community, students are empowered to explore, question, and innovate. From hands-on experiential learning opportunities to collaborative research projects, every aspect of the University of Belize experience is designed to inspire intellectual growth and personal development. Through this holistic approach to education, we prepare our students not only for successful careers but also to become lifelong learners and global citizens, ready to make meaningful contributions to society.



### QUALITY TEACHING & LEARNING

The University of Belize (UB) is steadfast in its mission to deliver high-quality education that equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in an ever-evolving global landscape. The UB curriculum is at the heart of this mission, offering rich and vigorous on-campus and practical learning experiences designed to drive graduate success. Building on the achievements of 2021-2022, UB has continued to refine its course and program structures along with teaching-related policies and procedures. This ongoing review aims to develop more flexible, relevant, and sustainable program designs, fostering greater responsiveness and adaptability to the changing world and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration across the university.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, UB streamlined and simplified several programs and courses, enabling the expansion of its e-campus. This expansion saw a number of new courses incorporated into the Moodle platform, enhancing the inclusion of blended learning into our teaching structures. Furthermore, the university continued to improve the quality of its course offerings through innovative curriculum design and program expansion.

### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER



### ENHANCING QUALITY AND STUDENT CENTEREDNESS FOR INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Striving steadily to enhance the quality of our programs and in our drive for student-centeredness, the University of Belize has been diligently working on refining our Human Resources, Finance, Academic, and Communication processes. Our goal is to achieve Institutional International Accreditation, ensuring that our educational standards meet and exceed global benchmarks. This report highlights the strides made in fostering a superior educational environment and showcases our commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and the overall UB experience.

Through these concerted efforts, UB remains dedicated to providing an enriching, dynamic, and inclusive educational experience. Our ongoing commitment to quality teaching and learning underscores our dedication to nurturing well-rounded, capable graduates ready to thrive in a global context.



## GIS DAY SYMPOSIUM 2022: A FOCUS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On November 18, 2022, the Science Department within the Faculty of Science & Technology at the University of Belize proudly hosted its GIS Day Symposium in celebration of Geographic Information System (GIS) week. The symposium centered on the essential role of GIS in propelling national development in Belize. The presenters brought a wealth of expertise, shedding light on the significant impact of GIS technology in driving progress and sustainability across multiple sectors in Belize. Their insights and discussions highlighted how GIS can be effectively utilized for fostering national growth, making the symposium an invaluable platform for educational exchanges and professional development.

## UB PHARMACY NATURAL PRODUCTS EXPO

In 2023, the Natural Products Expo demonstrated the vision and dedication of the UB Pharmacy Club and its students. This event was entirely student-led and guided by faculty mentors, Mr. Yusuf Abubakar and Dr. Danladi Husaini. The expo was a celebration of innovation, education, and community. It provided a platform for students to showcase their leadership skills and commitment to advancing knowledge in pharmacy, fostering an appreciation for natural products.



### HISTORY DEPARTMENT HOSTS POSTER EXHIBITION

As part of our Independence Day celebrations, the University of Belize's History Department showcased a thought-provoking Internationalization Poster Exhibition. Centered on the journey to our nation's Independence, the exhibit offered insights into the historical process. Partnering in this meaningful initiative is the 501 Hub from the Ministry of Education.



### THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION & ARTS HOSTED ITS OPEN DAY 2023

On April 26, 2023, the Faculty of Education & Arts (FEA) welcomed prospective students and the community to its vibrant Open Day event. Rooted in its mission of fostering productive and innovative citizens, FEA showcased its commitment to excellence in education and the arts. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with faculty members, explore cutting-edge academic programs, and participate in interactive demonstrations and workshops. From dynamic teaching methodologies to creative expression through the arts, FEA demonstrated its dedication to shaping well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive in an ever-evolving world. The Open Day served as a testament to FEA's unwavering dedication to cultivating a community of lifelong learners and forward-thinking leaders.



### FMSS MARKETING EXPO 2022: A SHOWCASE OF INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The FMSS Marketing Expo took center stage on November 25, 2022, with a dynamic live broadcast on UB's Facebook page. This captivating event featured 20 innovative and skilled groups, each showcasing their unique products and services. From creative concepts to entrepreneurial ventures, the expo highlighted the diverse talents and offerings within the Faculty of Management & Social Sciences (FMSS) community. The event not only celebrated the ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit of our students but also provided them with a platform to present their work to a wider audience, fostering a culture of innovation and practical learning at the University of Belize.

University of Belize  
**UB**  
Education Empowers a Nation

**FMSS MARKETING EXPO**

The Ultimate Vision to Revolutionize Commerce

**November 25, 2022**  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Via The University of Belize's Facebook Page  
[/UniversityOfBelize/](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityOfBelize/)

JOIN IN AS 20 GROUPS OF STUDENTS  
SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

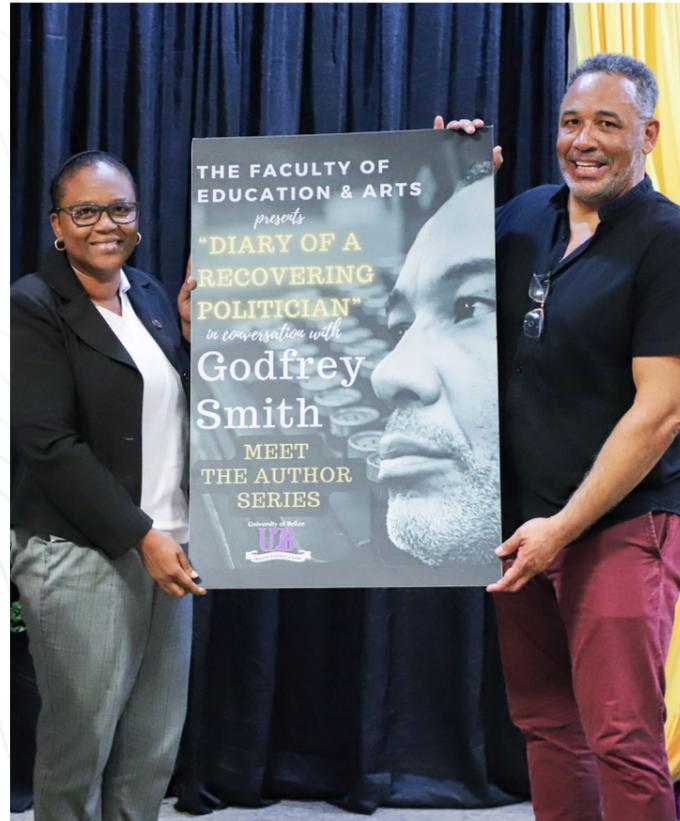
*Let your future start with us!*

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HELD ITS FIRST MEET THE AUTHOR SERIES

On February 6, 2023, the University of Belize's Faculty of Education and Arts inaugurated its first Meet the Author Series with esteemed writer Godfrey Smith as the inaugural guest. The event showcased Smith's latest book, "Diary of a Recovering Politician," offering profound insights from his distinguished literary career.

Godfrey Smith engaged the audience with captivating narratives and reflections, providing a unique glimpse into the world of politics and literature. The event not only highlighted Smith's contributions but also underscored UB's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and cultural enrichment within the community.

The inaugural Meet the Author Series marked a significant milestone in promoting literary appreciation and knowledge sharing at the University of Belize, reinforcing its role as a hub for intellectual exploration and community engagement.



## 3RD GIAN GANDHI MEMORIAL LECTURE 2023

On February 16, 2023, the University of Belize hosted the 3rd Gian Gandhi Memorial Lecture focusing on "Talent Migration & Development." The event featured a keynote address by Melanie Smith, Lecturer in the Faculty of Management & Social Sciences at UB. Esteemed guest speakers included Shefalika Gandhi, Clinician in Student Mental Health at Cornell Medical College in NYC, and Diana Locke, Director of the International Organization of Migration in Belize.

The lecture provided valuable insights into the dynamics of talent migration and its implications for development. It was streamed live on the university's Facebook page and Love FM Belize, reaching a broad audience and facilitating widespread engagement. This event underscored UB's commitment to fostering informed discussions on critical issues affecting Belize and the broader global community.

# SCIENCE OPEN DAY EXPO 2022: SHOWCASING INNOVATION & ENTHUSIASM

University of Belize



On November 24, 2022, the University of Belize's Faculty of Science hosted its highly anticipated Science Open Day Expo. This vibrant event was a testament to the innovation and enthusiasm of our students, who unveiled their projects with creativity, passion, and dedication to their respective fields.

The expo was further enriched by the participation of esteemed organizations such as Fabrigas, Santander Sugar Group, Belize Bureau of Standards, and the Belize Audubon Society, among others. These organizations exhibited their cutting-edge services and products, providing valuable insights and networking opportunities for students and attendees. The presence of these industry leaders not only enhanced the learning experience but also underscored the collaborative spirit that drives the University of Belize forward.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HOSTED GARIFUNA SURVIVAL DAY CELEBRATION

On April 19, 2023, the University of Belize held a Garifuna Survival Day Celebration at its Belmopan Campus, fully honoring the rich culture and heritage of the Garifuna people. President Dr. Vincent Palacio delivered a warm welcome to neighboring high schools, UB faculty and students, and distinguished guests including Ms. Sheena Zuniga, President of the National Garifuna Council, and Ms. Dativa Martinez, President of the National Garifuna Council – Belmopan Branch.

The event featured a captivating presentation of Garifuna history through song by Ms. Emily Martinez Palacio. Guest speaker Gwen Nunez Gonzalez delivered a highly interactive and thought-provoking presentation on “The Value of Intercultural Bilingual Education for the Garifuna in Belize.” Her message emphasized the importance of embracing and taking pride in our cultural heritage. The celebration highlighted the university’s commitment to cultural diversity and education, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Garifuna legacy.



## EARTH DAY 2023: INVESTING IN BELIZE'S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

To commemorate Earth Day, the University of Belize held its Earth Day 2023 Celebration on its Belmopan campus under the theme “Investing in Belize’s Natural Resources for a Sustainable Future.” The President of the Environmental Club, Ms. Caisha Fermin, gave the welcome address, kick-starting the festivities. UB President, Dr. Vincent Palacio, provided a synopsis of the environmental changes over the years and emphasized the need to safeguard and appreciate our current resources. The keynote speaker, Ministry of Economic Development CEO Dr. Osmond Martinez, shared initiatives and contributions from his office aimed at reducing paper usage. Additionally, Dr. Jennie Saqui, National Coordinator for GITEC - GIZ - Selva Maya, delivered a stimulating and motivational presentation, urging immediate action to conserve our natural wealth. The event underscored the university’s commitment to environmental sustainability and the active role it plays in fostering awareness and action within the community.


**UB**

## STUDENT LIFE

The University of Belize's student life is vibrant and enriching, offering a dynamic array of opportunities for personal growth, academic exploration, and social engagement. From bustling campus events and student organizations to experiential learning opportunities and sports activities, there is something for everyone. Our diverse student body fosters a culture of inclusivity and collaboration, creating a supportive environment where lifelong friendships are forged and diverse perspectives are celebrated.



Participating in cultural festivities, students gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Belize's rich heritage, while community service projects offer practical experience in making a positive impact. Volunteering not only benefits the community but also helps students develop essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, and empathy. Extracurricular interests, from arts and crafts to technology clubs, provide additional platforms for students to explore their passions and talents.

Sports activities and fitness programs promote physical well-being and teamwork, contributing to a holistic approach to student health. Additionally, experiential learning opportunities, including internships and fieldwork, allow students to apply academic knowledge in real-world settings, enhancing their professional readiness.

The University of Belize encourages students to embrace the full spectrum of the university experience. By engaging in diverse activities and building strong networks, students emerge as well-rounded individuals, equipped with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to make meaningful contributions to their communities and succeed in their future endeavors.



## UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE BLACK JAGUARS PLACE 2ND AT ATLIB VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, October 29th, the University of Belize's Male Volleyball Varsity team showcased their skills at the ATLIB National Volleyball Tournament hosted by San Pedro Junior College. In the opening round, the Black Jaguars faced off against Independence Junior College, emerging victorious with a 2-0 win, propelling them into the Finals against SJCJC.

The Final Match was an intense battle, with both teams fiercely contesting every point through attacks, blocks, and aces. Despite the Jaguars' strong fight, SJCJC claimed the first set. However, the Jaguars rallied back in the second set, forcing a decisive third set. The competition remained tight, but SJCJC ultimately clinched victory by a narrow margin of 2 points, concluding the match at 15-13.

The Black Jaguars were under the guidance of esteemed coaches and alumni Elton Moore and Randal Winright.

## BLACK JAGUAR REPRESENTS BELIZE IN INTERNATIONAL BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

University of Belize student Eugen Benguche showcased his talents at the Central American U21 Beach Volleyball Championship in Panama from November 11th to 13th. Benguche, a fourth-year Bachelor student majoring in Accounting and a valuable member of UB's Volleyball Varsity Team, hails from Punta Gorda.

Teaming up with Ernest Broaster Jr. of Belize City, Benguche competed against 11 teams representing six Central American countries. Throughout the tournament, they engaged in four matches against formidable opponents from Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica, concluding with a commendable 1-2 record.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE LAUNCHES SERVICE DAY INITIATIVE

The University of Belize marked a significant milestone with the launch of its Service Learning Initiative during the celebration of Service Day. This initiative empowers students to actively contribute to their community through meaningful service projects, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and engagement.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Her Worship Mayor Sheran Palacio for gracing the ceremony with her presence and participating in the flag-raising ceremony. President Dr. Vincent Palacio proudly raised the Belize Flag, symbolizing our commitment to national pride and service. Ms. Lourdes Mackenzie, President of the Belmopan Student Government, hoisted the UB Flag high, representing our university's values and aspirations.

The Service Learning Initiative exemplifies the University of Belize's dedication to integrating academic learning with community service, encouraging students to apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world issues. This initiative not only enhances the student experience but also strengthens the bond between the university and the wider community, promoting a culture of collaboration and mutual growth.



## UB HELD ITS FIRST IN-PERSON POST-COVID GRADUATION CEREMONY

On October 15, 2022, the University of Belize, Belize's national university, proudly hosted its first in-person post-COVID Commencement Ceremony. This significant event honored 1,145 graduands at the Certificate, Diploma, Associate, and Bachelor levels, marking a major milestone in their academic journeys.

In recognition of their immeasurable contributions to the country and its people, UB awarded honorary doctorate degrees to Hon. Said Musa (Doctor of Laws) and Gerald "Lord" Rhaburn (Doctor of Arts). Additionally, outstanding academic achievements were celebrated with awards presented to William Palma, Oniesha Longsworth, Astrid Iglesias, and Cielito de los Angeles Machuca as the top student academic achievers. To honor his memory and dedication to education, a posthumous Bachelor Degree in Public Sector Management was conferred on James Christopher Marin, who passed away just weeks before completing his last class.

The Commencement Ceremony featured Hon. Madam Justice Michelle Arana as the keynote speaker, with UB's President, Dr. Vincent Palacio, delivering the welcome address. Her Excellency Dame Froyla Tzalam also graced the event with her presence, adding to the significance and celebration of the graduates' achievements. This ceremony not only celebrated academic success but also underscored the resilience and perseverance of the UB community in overcoming the challenges posed by the pandemic.

*Let your future start with us!*



### UB CENTRAL FARM CAMPUS WELCOMES RETURNING STUDENTS

The UB Central Farm Campus eagerly welcomed back its students for the semester starting on January 17, 2023. In anticipation of their return, the campus proudly unveiled newly renovated student dormitories. These enhancements reflect the University of Belize's ongoing commitment to providing a comfortable and conducive living environment, ensuring students can focus on their academic and personal growth. The upgraded facilities underscore the university's dedication to enhancing the overall student experience, fostering a supportive and enriching campus community.



### UB HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

In response to the devastating effects of Hurricane Lisa, the University of Belize (UB) organized a compassionate hurricane relief effort aimed at supporting affected students. Spearheaded by the Office of Student Affairs, this initiative mobilized the university community to gather essential supplies critical for the well-being of those impacted.

The overwhelming outpouring of support resulted in the collection of vital items, including hot and cold cereals, rice, pasta, canned goods, oatmeal, blankets,

clothing, and sheets. On November 17, 2022, UB ensured the efficient distribution of these provisions directly to the students in need.

The Office of Student Affairs played a pivotal role in the timely dissemination of the collected items, providing essential aid and solace to those navigating the aftermath of the hurricane. This display of solidarity within the UB community not only offered tangible support but also underscored the institution's commitment to compassion and unity.



### GARIFUNA AWARENESS PRESENTATION

On November 17, 2022, the Student Affairs Office at the University of Belize hosted a captivating Garifuna Awareness Presentation. The event was graced by two esteemed presenters, Mr. Ludwig Palacio and Ms. Emily Martinez, who provided a rich and enlightening discourse on Garifuna history, poetry, and artistry. Their eloquent presentations not only unveiled the intricate past of the Garifuna people but also highlighted the essence of their vibrant cultural identity.

Palacio and Martinez passionately urged the attending students to delve deeply into their ethnic heritage, advocating for a strong sense of unity among the student body. They emphasized the profound significance of celebrating and sharing the diverse splendor of their cultural backgrounds. This call to action reverberated through the university, inspiring a collective embrace of the unique heritage that forms the tapestry of the UB community.



## UB BLACK JAGUARS WIN 1ST & 2ND PLACE

IN THE 26TH LA RUTA MAYA  
BELIZE RIVER CHALLENGE 2023

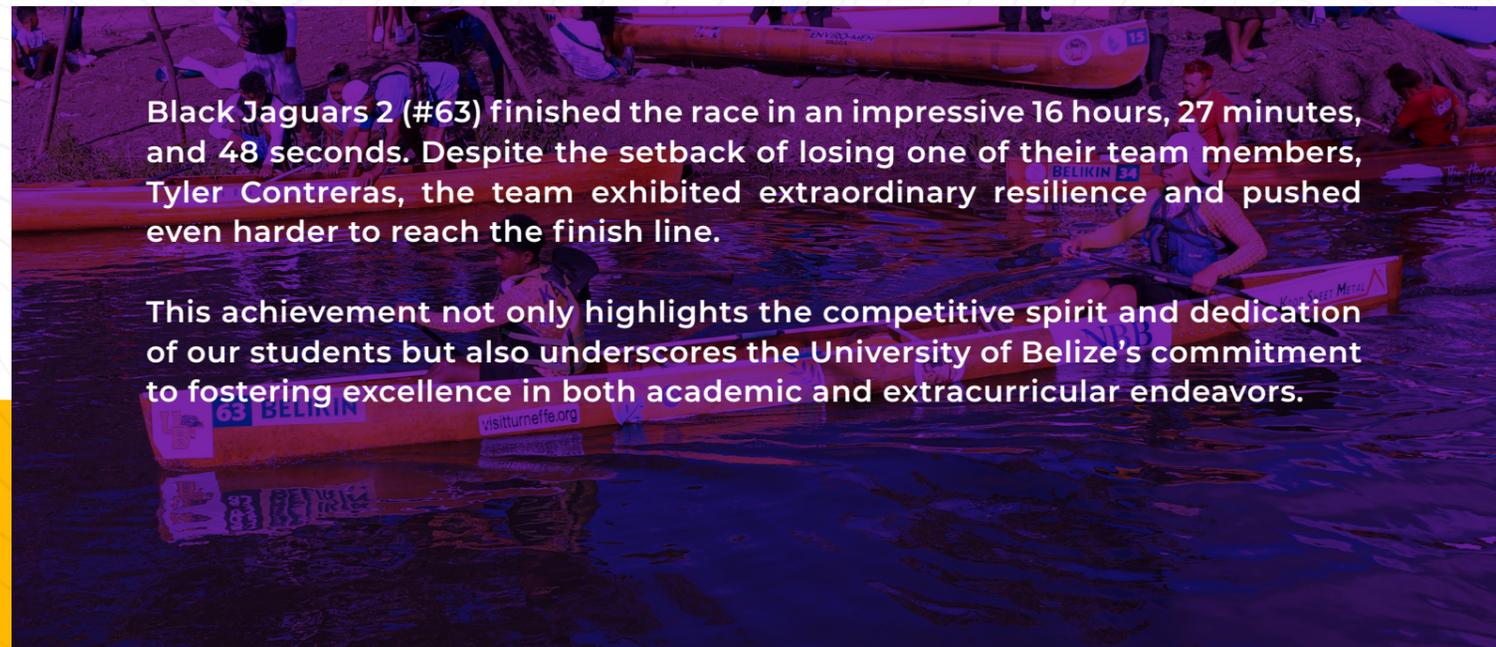


The University of Belize is immensely proud of the Black Jaguars teams for their outstanding performance in the 26th La Ruta Maya Belize River Challenge 2023. Demonstrating exceptional determination and teamwork, the Black Jaguars secured both first and second place in the intramural category.

Black Jaguars 1 (#99) completed the grueling challenge with a remarkable time of 21 hours, 33 minutes, and 15 seconds.

Black Jaguars 2 (#63) finished the race in an impressive 16 hours, 27 minutes, and 48 seconds. Despite the setback of losing one of their team members, Tyler Contreras, the team exhibited extraordinary resilience and pushed even harder to reach the finish line.

This achievement not only highlights the competitive spirit and dedication of our students but also underscores the University of Belize's commitment to fostering excellence in both academic and extracurricular endeavors.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE APPOINTS STUDENT AMBASSADOR

On May 9, 2023, the University of Belize proudly appointed David Morey, a current UB student, as the UB Social Media Ambassador. This appointment reflects the university's commitment to recognizing and nurturing the talents of its students, providing them with opportunities to develop their skills and engage with the university community in innovative ways.

President Dr. Vincent Palacio expressed his pride in seeing students like David actively contributing to the university's mission and vision. By leveraging social media, David will play a pivotal role in enhancing UB's online presence and connecting with a broader audience.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HELD ITS 3RD ANNUAL STRIPING CEREMONY



On January 13, 2023, the University of Belize (UB) celebrated its 3rd Nurses' Striping Ceremony under the theme "Embrace the Challenge." This significant event symbolizes the commencement of the third year of the nursing program, marking a pivotal point where student nurses begin their practicum and continue their journey toward becoming extraordinary healthcare professionals.

The ceremony featured the lighting of the candle accompanied by a prayer and pledge, signifying each student nurse's initiation into the next chapter of their training. Each student received three stripes on their sleeve, a proud emblem of their advancement and commitment to the nursing profession.

The importance of nursing as an art form was eloquently underscored by a quote from Florence Nightingale: "Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation as any painter's or sculptor's work; for what is the having to do with dead canvas or dead marble, compared with having to do with the living body, the temple of God's spirit? It is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts."

This ceremony not only highlighted the dedication and hard work of the nursing students but also reinforced the profound impact and artistry inherent in the nursing profession.





## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE'S REGIONAL LANGUAGE CENTER WELCOMED ITS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO ORIENTATION 2022-2

On April 17, 2023, the University of Belize proudly welcomed students from across Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, and other nations to its newly renovated Regional Language Center. This orientation marked the beginning of an exciting academic journey for these international students.

President Dr. Vincent Palacio greeted the students warmly, emphasizing the university's commitment to providing a nurturing and enriching educational environment. He extended a heartfelt invitation to all upcoming university activities and events, encouraging active participation and engagement.

The orientation event also featured a special address by Mrs. Dian Castillo Maheia, Chief Executive Officer from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, & Technology. She invited the international students to immerse themselves in Belizean culture, explore the country's diverse landscapes, and embrace the unique experiences Belize has to offer.

The University of Belize is thrilled to have such a diverse cohort of international students at the Regional Language Center and looks forward to supporting their academic success and personal growth throughout their time here.



## LAUNCHING OF "LET BELIZE LIVE: SPEECHES OF THE PREMIER" BOOKLET AND OPENING OF EXHIBIT

On January 13, 2023, the National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) launched the booklet "Let Belize Live: Speeches of the Premier," a collection of 12 speeches delivered by George Price during his tenure as Premier from 1964 to 1981. The launch coincided with the opening of an exhibition of the same name at the George Price Center for Peace and Development, in honor of George Price Day. This booklet includes well-known and lesser-known speeches, including the significant September 25, 1981, Statement at the United Nations, which recaps his arduous work during his tenure and re-articulates his vision for Belize's future.

The University of Belize played a pivotal role in this initiative, demonstrating its commitment to nation-building and historical preservation. UB graduates and faculty were instrumental in the transcription and research process, providing critical expertise and support. This collaboration highlights the university's dedication to contributing to significant national projects and fostering a deeper understanding of Belize's history and heritage.

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION



At the University of Belize, Research & Innovation are integral to our academic pursuits. Our esteemed faculty and driven students collaborate on pioneering projects across diverse fields, ranging from environmental science to healthcare technology. With state-of-the-art research facilities and a supportive ecosystem, we empower scholars to push the boundaries of knowledge and pioneer transformative solutions.

Our university fosters a dynamic environment where curiosity thrives and ideas flourish. Through collaborative efforts among faculty, students, and industry partners, we tackle pressing challenges and explore emerging opportunities that align with national needs. From revolutionary sustainable initiatives to advancements in medical breakthroughs, our commitment to research excellence propels us forward, ensuring we make meaningful contributions to our society and beyond.



*Let your future start with us!*

## RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS LIST

## 2022-2023 RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS



- Augustine Anayochukwu Onyeaghala, Arinze Favour Anyiam, Danladi Chiroma Husaini, Emmanuella Ogechi Onyeaghala, Ejeatuluchukwu Obi. "Herbal supplements as treatment options for COVID-19: A call for clinical development of herbal supplements for emerging and re-emerging viral threats in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Scientific African*, Volume 20, 2023, e01627, ISSN 2468-2276.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sciaf.2023.e01627>  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468227623000844>
- De Four-Babb, J., Esnard, T., Bristol, L., Coye, T., Ibrahim-Joseph, & L. Perez, L. (2022). Managing the first wave: Selected Caribbean higher education institutions' responses to COVID-19. In F. Netswera, A. A. Woldegiyorgis & T. Karabchuk (Eds.)  
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- De Four-Babb, J. (2022). 40 hours of strategy: Making sense of pedagogical dissonance through reflection. In D. Hucks, Y. Sealey-Ruiz, V. Showunmi, S. Carothers, & C. Lewis (Eds.), *Purposeful teaching and learning in diverse contexts* (pp. 71-90). Information Age Publishing.  
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- Dr. Vairez published Authors & Affiliations: Mathias R. Vairez Jr. (UB-FEA), Nora Bradley (Educational Consultant), Janeen Quiroz (UB-FEA), Olga Manzanero (UB-FEA), and Wendy Flores (UB-FEA Student)
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<https://poetryarchive.org/poem/from-a-suite-of-7-for-belizean-artisty/>  
<https://poetryarchive.org/collections/wordview-2022-winners/>



University of Belize



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**THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE**  
AND THE MINISTRY OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COLLABORATED ON  
AGRICULTURE SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH USING TOMATOES

On September 26, 2022, the University of Belize (UB) and the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) embarked on an exciting collaboration focusing on agricultural scientific research centered around tomatoes. The event was marked by the presence of UB President Dr. Vincent Palacio, MED Chief Executive Officer Dr. Osmond Martinez, and Dr. Geraldo Flowers, Program Manager of Resilient Rural Belize (RRB), who gathered at the UB Central Farm Campus to observe the advancements in tomato production within a controlled cover structure environment.

This partnership underscores the commitment to agricultural sustainability and economic development in Belize. By leveraging scientific research and innovative practices, UB and MED aim to develop solutions that enhance agricultural productivity and contribute to the nation's economic resilience. This initiative not only showcases the potential for cutting-edge agricultural techniques but also reinforces the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and government bodies in addressing key national challenges.



**DR. ROMALDO LEWIS**  
PRESENTS TO THE MINISTRY  
OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
HOUSING

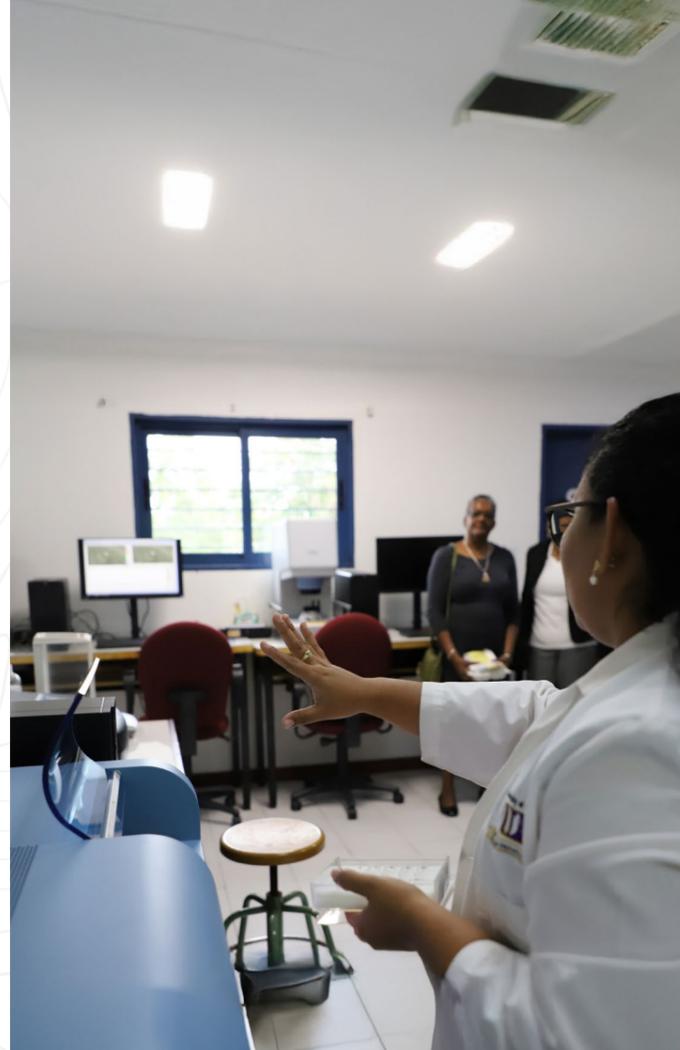
On November 25, 2022, Dr. Romaldo Lewis, Assistant Professor at the University of Belize, presented his groundbreaking thesis, "Design of an ex-post method to assess the Social, Economic, Environmental, and Safety (SEES) impacts of highway infrastructure development in Belize: The Hummingbird Highway Case," to the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing.

This comprehensive study provides a significant leap in understanding the multifaceted impacts of highway infrastructure development in Belize. Dr. Lewis's research offers a robust framework for assessing the social, economic, environmental, and safety aspects of such projects, using the Hummingbird Highway as a case study. His findings are poised to inform decision-making processes, promoting sustainable development and ensuring that infrastructure projects contribute positively to the nation's growth and wellbeing.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE LAUNCHED THE HUMMINGBIRD ANALYTICAL LABORATORY

On January 27, 2023, the University of Belize (UB) proudly launched the Hummingbird Analytical Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility designed to advance analytical testing capabilities. Spearheaded by the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), this laboratory is poised to meet the needs of institutional, national, and international stakeholders through cutting-edge scholarly research and robust laboratory capacity.

The Hummingbird Analytical Laboratory is committed to providing high-quality, accurate, and reliable analytical work and results. Its services will support research and monitoring across the agricultural, environmental, and industrial sectors, fostering innovation and development. This launch marks a significant milestone in UB's mission to drive scientific excellence and contribute to sustainable development both locally and globally.



## THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

### HANDS OVER OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION OF THE SOLAR PV SYSTEM TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

On February 06, 2023, the University of Belize (UB) and the Government of Belize (GOB) marked a pivotal moment with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement formalized the transfer of ownership and operational responsibilities of the Solar PV System located on the UB Belmopan Campus. The MoU was signed in Belmopan by UB President, Dr. Vincent Palacio, and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics, and E-Governance, Jose Urbina.

This transition underscores UB's commitment to sustainability and energy independence. By taking over the operation of the Solar PV System, UB aims to enhance its green initiatives, reduce its carbon footprint, and promote renewable energy education and research within the university community.

In line with its mandate to support various sectors of society, the Government of Belize partnered with UB and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to establish the solar PV system on the university's campus in 2012. This partnership was founded on the belief that solar PV systems are a crucial component of Belize's energy future.

The signing of the MoU also benefits the Engineering Program, which will relocate to Belmopan in August. UB plans to develop courses and programs that offer students both theoretical knowledge and practical experience in solar power generation. This initiative positions UB as a leader in providing hands-on training in the burgeoning solar power sector, furthering its commitment to sustainability and energy education.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HELD ITS 12TH ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The University of Belize's Faculty of Management and Social Sciences hosted its 12th Annual Research Conference on May 04, 2023, under the theme "Inspiring Solutions Through Research". The conference showcased the university's dedication to fostering innovative research and scholarly excellence.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Tarron Khemraj, Professor of Economics and International Studies at New College of Florida, delivered a compelling address that set the stage for a day of insightful presentations and discussions. The conference featured a diverse lineup of presenters, including Dr. Philip Castillo, Mr. Justin Parks, Mr. Kenton Barona, Dr. Romaldo Lewis, Mr. Fidelio Ico, and Ms. Sasha Cadle, who shared their groundbreaking research findings on a range of topics.

This annual event underscored the importance of research in driving forward-thinking solutions and highlighted the university's commitment to academic excellence and societal development. Through such conferences, the University of Belize continues to inspire and empower its community to address pressing challenges and contribute to the broader body of knowledge.

PRESENTS  
**12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
RESEARCH  
CONFERENCE**

*Inspiring Solutions through Research*



*With Keynote Speaker*  
**Dr. Tarron Khemraj**  
Professor of Economics and International Studies at New College of Florida

**MAY  
4  
2023**

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Presenters:**  
Dr. Philip Castillo | Mr. Justin Parks  
Mr. Kenton Barona | Dr. Romaldo Lewis  
Mr. Fidelio Ico | Ms. Sasha Cadle

Join Via Zoom  
<https://bit.ly/UB-FMSS-Research>

OR the University of Belize's Facebook Page



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HOSTED ITS SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

The University of Belize's Faculty of Health Science hosted its highly anticipated Social Work Conference 2023 at the House of Culture in Belize City on May 10, 2023. This event marked a significant collaborative effort with the California Baptist University Department of Social Work. Bringing together esteemed lecturers and final-year Bachelor of Social Work students from both institutions, the conference fostered an environment of shared learning and collaboration.

Under the central theme of "Respecting Diversity Through Joint Social Action," the conference aimed to address pressing social issues and foster inclusivity and collective action. UB President, Dr. Vincent Palacio, opened the day's activities with his welcome remarks, setting an optimistic tone for the day.

The presenters for the conference included Mrs. Azalia Larrieu, who spoke about Zones of Regulation; Mr. Fermin Olivera, who presented on Youth and Mental Health Intervention; and Ms. Eleanor Bennett, who introduced Psychological First Aid. The agenda also featured a keynote address by UB Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr. Lisa Johnson, and an expert panel discussion on Preventing Child Abuse.

This conference served as a testament to the power of partnership in driving positive change and nurturing a more inclusive society. Through this collaborative effort, the University of Belize and its partners demonstrated their commitment to addressing critical social issues and promoting respect for diversity.



## OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

At the University of Belize, Outreach, Engagement, and Strategic Partnerships are fundamental pillars of our commitment to community empowerment and sustainable development. Through proactive outreach initiatives, we actively seek to bridge the gap between academia and society, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to address pressing challenges and create opportunities for positive change.

Our strategic partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and international organizations enable us to leverage resources and expertise towards shared goals, amplifying our impact and fostering innovation. These collaborations have resulted in numerous successful projects that demonstrate our dedication to improving the quality of life for communities across Belize.

By engaging with communities and forging meaningful relationships, we strive to build a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous future for Belize and beyond. Our efforts are reflected in a range of initiatives, from local development programs to international research collaborations, all aimed at creating sustainable solutions and fostering educational advancement.

In essence, our approach to Outreach, Engagement, and Strategic Partnerships is about harnessing the collective power of knowledge, resources, and people to drive transformative change and ensure that the University of Belize remains at the forefront of societal progress and innovation.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE HOSTS THE AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

On September 19, 2022, the University of Belize Belmopan Campus had the esteemed privilege of welcoming His Excellency Pankaj Sharma, Ambassador of India, for a special visit to our Engineering facilities. Led by President Dr. Vincent Palacio, the visit included an insightful tour of our ongoing projects, providing a firsthand look at the innovative work being conducted on our campus.

During the visit, Ambassador Pankaj Sharma engaged with faculty members, researchers, and students, highlighting the collaborative efforts between India and Belize in the field of engineering and technology. The tour underscored the University of Belize's commitment to fostering international partnerships and promoting academic exchange to advance knowledge and innovation.

The Ambassador's visit not only strengthened diplomatic ties but also highlighted the University of Belize's role as a hub for cutting-edge research and educational excellence in Belize. We look forward to further collaborations and exchanges that will contribute to mutual understanding and development between our nations.

This event serves as a testament to the University of Belize's dedication to global engagement and its mission to empower future generations through education and innovation.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE COMMEMORATES INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE DAY

On October 12, 2022, the University of Belize proudly commemorated Indigenous People's Resistance Day with a significant milestone: the inauguration of the Intercultural Indigenous and Language Center. This auspicious occasion was dedicated to celebrating the profound richness of indigenous languages, cultures, traditions, philosophies, and histories that shape Belizean identity.

The Intercultural Indigenous and Language Center serves as a beacon of our university's unwavering commitment to preserving and promoting the invaluable heritage of indigenous communities. Through this initiative, we aim to foster greater understanding, appreciation, and respect for the diverse indigenous cultures that form an integral part of Belize's social fabric.

President Dr. Vincent Palacio led the inauguration ceremony, emphasizing the center's role in advancing cultural diversity and promoting inclusivity within our academic community. The event featured cultural performances, exhibitions, and interactive displays showcasing the vibrant tapestry of indigenous traditions.

This commemoration not only honors the resilience and resistance of indigenous peoples throughout history but also reaffirms our university's pledge to actively engage in the preservation and celebration of indigenous knowledge and cultural practices. The Intercultural Indigenous and Language Center stands as a symbol of unity and collaboration, where students, faculty, and community members come together to learn, share, and uphold the legacy of indigenous heritage in Belize.

Moving forward, the University of Belize remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting indigenous communities, promoting cultural diversity, and fostering an inclusive environment where all cultures are respected and celebrated. The inauguration of the Intercultural Indigenous and Language Center marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards cultural equity and social justice, reinforcing our dedication to advancing indigenous rights and cultural preservation for generations to



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE AND NATIONAL CHUNG-HSING UNIVERSITY SIGNED MOU FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

On October 18, 2022, the University of Belize (UB) achieved a significant milestone with the virtual signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Chung-Hsing University (NCHU) in Taiwan. The ceremony, graced by Ambassador David Kuan-Chou Chien, witnessed the formalization of collaboration between Dr. Fuh-Sheng Shieu, President of NCHU, and Dr. Vincent Palacio, President of the University of Belize.

Also in attendance were distinguished guests including H.E. Dr. Candice Pitts, Ambassador of Belize to Taiwan, Mr. Anthony Sylvestre, Chairman of the UB Board of Trustees, and Dr. Fred Shyu, Chair of the Academic Committee of UB/ Senior Adviser of Taiwan Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission.

Ambassador Chien commended both universities for their dedication in translating the MOU from vision to reality. He extended his best wishes to students and faculty members from both institutions, expressing optimism for enhanced bilateral educational exchanges and academic cooperation between Belize and Taiwan.

The MOU sets the stage for fruitful collaborations in various academic realms, including research, faculty exchange programs, student mobility initiatives, and joint projects. It underscores UB's commitment to global engagement and its pursuit of excellence in education through strategic partnerships with leading international institutions.

This partnership with NCHU not only expands UB's global footprint but also enriches its academic offerings, fostering cross-cultural understanding and innovation. The University of Belize looks forward to leveraging this collaboration to empower its students and faculty, advance research endeavors, and contribute to global knowledge exchange and development.



## PRESIDENT DR. VINCENT PALACIO VISITED THE CITY OF ANGLETON

On October 18, 2022, President Dr. Vincent Palacio of the University of Belize undertook a pivotal visit to the City of Angleton, where he engaged in a productive information exchange session focused on higher education. The session, themed around the importance of college education in communities, provided a platform for discussing the role of universities in societal development.

Dr. Palacio delivered a comprehensive overview of the University of Belize, highlighting its academic programs, research initiatives, and community engagement efforts. His presentation underscored UB's commitment to excellence in education, innovation, and fostering positive socio-economic impacts in Belize.

The exchange session facilitated meaningful discussions on the challenges and opportunities in higher education, emphasizing the transformative power of knowledge and the pivotal role universities play in shaping future leaders and fostering intellectual growth.

Dr. Palacio's visit to Angleton not only strengthened ties between Belize and the City of Angleton but also showcased UB's dedication to promoting educational excellence and collaboration across borders. The session concluded with a shared commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and fostering mutual understanding between communities.

Through initiatives like these, the University of Belize continues to lead in educational leadership, contributing to regional development and empowering individuals to realize their full potential in a globalized world.

# REMARKABLE EVENTS

## Japanese Style Management Certificate Ceremony

On January 21, 2023, the University of Belize, in collaboration with JICA Belize, celebrated the achievements of students who successfully completed the Japanese Style Management course with a certificate ceremony. The course led by lecturer Mr. Juichiro Sasaki, JICA Representative, empowered 42 students with a unique management perspective. Equipped with new skills and insights, these students will be able to enhance their professional careers and entrepreneurial endeavors.



## The University of Belize and The National Bank of Belize Ltd. Signed a Memorandum of Understanding

On March 8, 2023, a significant collaboration unfolded as the University of Belize and the National Bank of Belize Limited joined hands in a mutually beneficial partnership formalized by the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU ceremony took place at the National Bank Ltd. Branch on Forest Drive in Belmopan, where UB President, Dr. Vincent Palacio, and General Manager, Mr. Alvaro Alamina, signed the agreement, marking a pivotal moment for both institutions.



## Paranda Night at the UB Campus

The University of Belize hosted a vibrant Paranda Night fundraiser on November 17, 2022, aimed at supporting the President's Endowment Fund and providing bursaries to deserving students. The event featured a captivating performance by Lloyd Augustine and the Wagierale Drummers, showcasing Belizean cultural music and traditions. Attendees enjoyed the lively atmosphere, dancing to infectious rhythms late into the night. The fundraiser exemplified UB's commitment to cultural preservation, community engagement, and student support, drawing enthusiastic participation and contributions towards enhancing educational opportunities at the university.



## The University of Belize Receives Hurricane Relief Assistance from PACT

On November 30, 2022, the University of Belize (UB) received invaluable Hurricane Relief assistance from the Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) to support the recovery efforts required for its facilities at the Calabash Caye Field Station (CCFS).

The CCFS stands as a crucial research hub not only for Belize but also for numerous NGOs and international organizations. This assistance underscores the collaborative efforts aimed at restoring the station's infrastructure and ensuring its continued role in advancing scientific research and environmental conservation efforts in Belize and beyond.



*Let your future start with us!*

University of Belize

**UB**

Education Empowers a Nation

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE AND THE MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY AND CIVIL AVIATION

## SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On November 17, 2022, a significant milestone was achieved as the University of Belize (UB) and the Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation (MBECA) formalized their collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The ceremony took place at the UB Belmopan Campus and was attended by UB President, Dr. Vincent Palacio, and Hon. Andre Perez, Minister of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation.

*Let your future start with us!*

During the signing ceremony, Guest Speaker Hon. Francis Fonseca emphasized the crucial role of education in preparing students for the available job market and aligning educational outcomes with the country's developmental needs. His remarks underscored the importance of partnerships between academia and government agencies to promote sustainable development and economic growth.



The MoU signifies a strategic partnership aimed at fostering institutional cooperation between UB and MBECA. It sets the framework for both entities to exchange knowledge, expertise, data, and information, thereby advancing their common interests and respective missions. This collaborative effort is designed to enhance educational opportunities, support research initiatives, and contribute to national development goals in Belize.

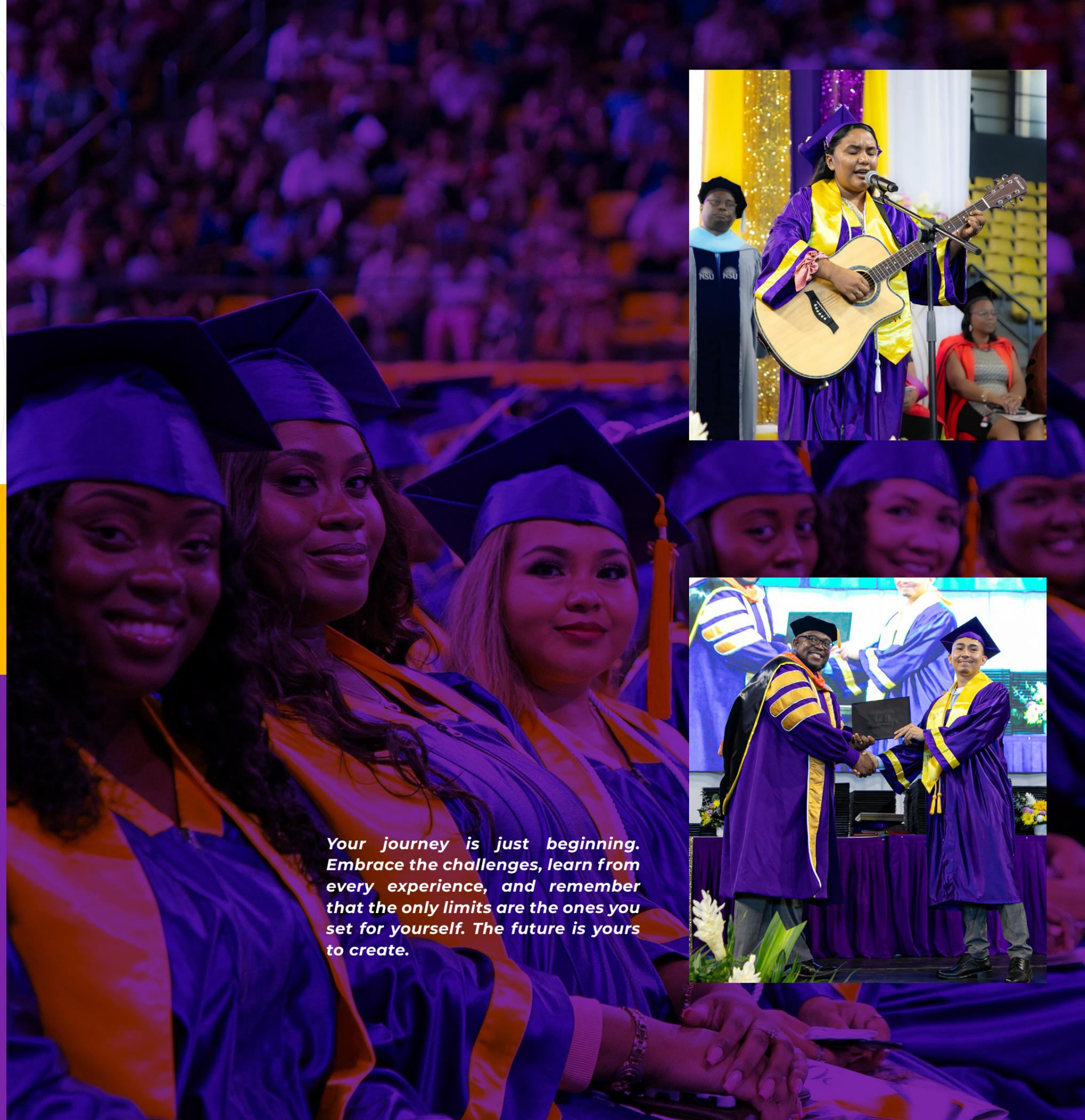
Through this MoU, UB reaffirms its commitment to providing relevant and impactful education, research, and community engagement initiatives that contribute to the advancement of Belize's blue economy and civil aviation sectors. This partnership exemplifies UB's role as a key player in national development, driving innovation and fostering a collaborative approach to address contemporary challenges and opportunities.

## GRADUATION

### AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE

Belize's National University hosted its first in-person post-covid Commencement Ceremony on October 15th, 2022 at 10:00 am. The University of Belize honored 1,145 Graduands at the Certificate, Diploma, Associate and Bachelor levels as follows:

UB awarded honorary doctorate degrees to Hon. Said Musa (Doctor of Laws) and Gerald "Lord" Rhaburn (Doctor of Arts) for their immeasurable contributions to our country and people. William Palma, Oniesha Longworth, Astrid Iglesias, and Cielito de los Angeles Machuca were presented with awards as the top student academic achievers. The University also conferred a posthumous Bachelor Degree in Public Sector Management on James Christopher Marin, who passed away weeks before his last class, to honor his memory and dedication to his education.



*Your journey is just beginning. Embrace the challenges, learn from every experience, and remember that the only limits are the ones you set for yourself. The future is yours to create.*

# HR RETREAT

A two-day staff retreat was held by our HR department at Dream Valley Belize, the team engaged in vibrant group discussions focused on enhancing their service to students and colleagues. These sessions fostered a deeper understanding of best practices and innovative approaches. The retreat concluded with a lively team-building activity: cooking exquisite delicacies on a BBQ grill using provided ingredients. This hands-on experience not only sharpened culinary skills but also reinforced teamwork and creativity, leaving everyone invigorated and united in their commitment to excellence.





By providing high-quality education and certification programs, UB-IBF supports these institutions in fostering a skilled and knowledgeable workforce capable of navigating complex financial landscapes effectively.

The establishment of UB-IBF underscores UB's role in advancing national economic development and promoting financial literacy across Belize. Through strategic partnerships and collaboration with industry stakeholders, UB continues to strengthen its educational offerings and contribute to building a robust financial infrastructure that supports sustainable growth and prosperity.

This initiative reaffirms UB's commitment to innovation, excellence in education, and serving the needs of Belizean communities by equipping individuals with the skills and expertise necessary to thrive in the dynamic field of banking and finance.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE LAUNCHED THE UB INSTITUTE OF BANKING AND FINANCE

On February 13, 2023, the University of Belize (UB) proudly inaugurated its newest institution, the UB Institute of Banking and Finance (UB-IBF). This significant milestone marks UB's commitment to enhancing financial education and professional development opportunities within Belize.

The UB-IBF aims to address critical gaps in the financial sector by offering accredited courses and training programs tailored to meet the industry's evolving needs. For the first time in Belize, participants can undertake Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and other finance certification courses locally, eliminating the need for overseas training and making education more accessible and cost-effective.

Designed to serve financial organizations such as banks, credit unions, insurance companies, and real estate firms, the UB-IBF ensures compliance with regulatory requirements mandating comprehensive training for industry professionals.



## THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE'S INTERCULTURAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

### PRESENTS PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATION AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

On April 17, 2023, the University of Belize's Intercultural Indigenous Language Institute (IILI) hosted a significant presentation attended by key government officials. The event welcomed Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Education, Culture, Science, & Technology; Mrs. Dian Castillo Maheia, Chief Executive Officer from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, & Technology; and Hon. Dolores Balderamos, Minister of Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples' Affairs.

The presentation centered around a comprehensive proposal crafted by UB's IILI, focusing on education and indigenous affairs. This initiative underscores UB's commitment to advancing the preservation, promotion, and integration of indigenous languages, cultures, and knowledge systems into Belize's educational framework.

The presence of government officials at the presentation underscores the importance placed on indigenous affairs and education within Belize. The collaborative efforts between UB's IILI and government bodies aim to foster inclusive and equitable educational practices that respect and honor Belize's indigenous heritage.

UB's Intercultural Indigenous Language Institute remains dedicated to its mission of promoting cultural diversity, advancing indigenous knowledge systems, and advocating for the educational rights of indigenous communities. Through initiatives like this proposal, UB continues to play a pivotal role in shaping national policies and practices that uphold cultural diversity and equity in education.



## UB PRESIDENT VISITED BAHAR BIOTECH LTD.

On January 9, 2023, Dr. Vincent Palacio, President of the University of Belize (UB), along with a team of senior officials, visited Bahar Biotech Ltd. in the Franks Eddie community, Cayo District. Accompanying Dr. Palacio were Dr. Apolonio Aguilar, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology; Mr. Maximilliano Ortega, Director of the Central Farm Campus; Dr. Deon Daniels, Plant Scientist; and Mr. Egbert Irving, Director of Institutional Advancement.

Bahar Biotech Ltd. is a pioneering company focused on integrating advanced technology to propagate, cultivate, and export various plant products within Belize. During the visit, the UB delegation observed ongoing construction of a biotechnology facility dedicated to plant tissue culture, aimed at enhancing production capabilities and diversifying agricultural outputs.

The visit highlighted numerous opportunities for UB students, particularly in fields such as agriculture, biology, and chemistry, as well as in international business, logistics, and trade. The collaboration with Bahar Biotech Ltd. is expected to facilitate knowledge transfer and practical experience for UB students, aligning with the university's commitment to providing comprehensive education that meets industry demands.

This strategic partnership underscores UB's dedication to fostering innovation, sustainable agriculture practices, and economic development within Belize. By engaging with industry leaders like Bahar Biotech Ltd., UB continues to expand its educational offerings and contribute significantly to national and regional development initiatives.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE'S PRESIDENT IS SWORN IN



On March 01, 2023, the University of Belize marked a significant moment with the official swearing-in of President Dr. Vincent Palacio. The ceremony, presided over by Her Excellency Dame Froyla Tzalam, Governor General of Belize, took place at the House of the Governor General in Belmopan.

Dr. Vincent Palacio assumed the role of Interim President on August 01, 2021, and was subsequently appointed as President on August 01, 2022. His leadership has since been instrumental in guiding UB through a period of growth and transformation.

Under President Palacio's stewardship, UB has continued to advance its mission of providing quality higher education, fostering academic excellence, and strengthening its commitment to serving Belizean communities.

His vision for UB encompasses innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability, positioning the university as a leader in higher education within Belize and beyond.

The swearing-in ceremony reaffirms UB's confidence in President Palacio's leadership and dedication to advancing the university's strategic goals. As UB moves forward under his leadership, it remains committed to excellence in education, research, and community engagement, guided by President Palacio's vision for a thriving and dynamic academic institution.

President Dr. Vincent Palacio's tenure as President signifies a new chapter of growth and progress for the University of Belize, supported by a steadfast commitment to academic integrity, student success, and national development.



# MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



As the University's leader, the President guides the Senior Management Team in fulfilling the institution's strategic objectives outlined in the strategic plan. This dedicated team oversees the strategic goals, identifies and addresses risks, and charts the course for the National University to maintain its commitment to serving the Belizean community and students effectively. Through collaborative efforts and forward-thinking strategies, the Senior Management Team plays a key role in steering the university towards its mission of excellence in education and community engagement.



**DR. VINCENT PALACIO**  
**PRESIDENT**



**DR. SHERLENE ENRIQUEZ-SAVERY**  
**VICE PRESIDENT**



**MR. IAN SANGSTER**  
**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**



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**STUDENT GOVERNMENTS**  
**ASSOCIATION**



**MS. DARLENE VERNON**  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BELIZE**

# FACULTY & CENTERS

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Languages & Literature Department Chair  
Dr. Randy Marfield

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Mrs. Lisa Mae Ramirez

Internship Program Chair  
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Regional Language Center, Interim Director  
Mr. Lugie Cruz

## **FACULTY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

Dean  
Dr. Apolonio Aguilar

Information & Technology, Physics, & Mathematics Chair  
Mr. Steven Lewis

Chemistry & Biology Department Chair  
Ms. Karen Bautista

Engineering Department Chair  
Mr. Emeri Cayetano

Department of Agriculture Chair  
Mr. Maximilliano Ortega

## **FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Dean  
Dr. Lisa Johnson

Nursing Chair  
Mrs. Isidora Espadas

Allied Health Chair  
Mrs. Lydia Thurton

Social Work Chair  
Mrs. Azalia Larrieu

## **FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

Dean  
Dr. Watler Bernard

Chair  
Sharett Yearwood

## **CENTERS & CAMPUSES**

Regional Language Center  
Interim Director, Mr. Lugie Cruz

UB-ERI  
Director, Dr. Jake Snaddon

Intercultural Indigenous Language Institute  
Coordinator, Mr. Delmer Tzib

UB Finance & Banking Institute  
Coordinator, Mr. Derrick Conoqui

Open and Distance Learning  
Director, Dr. Frieda Palma

UB Central Farm Campus  
Campus Coordinator, Mr. Maximilliano Ortega

UB PG Campus  
Campus Coordinator, Mr. Roy Polonio

## **NEW HIRES**

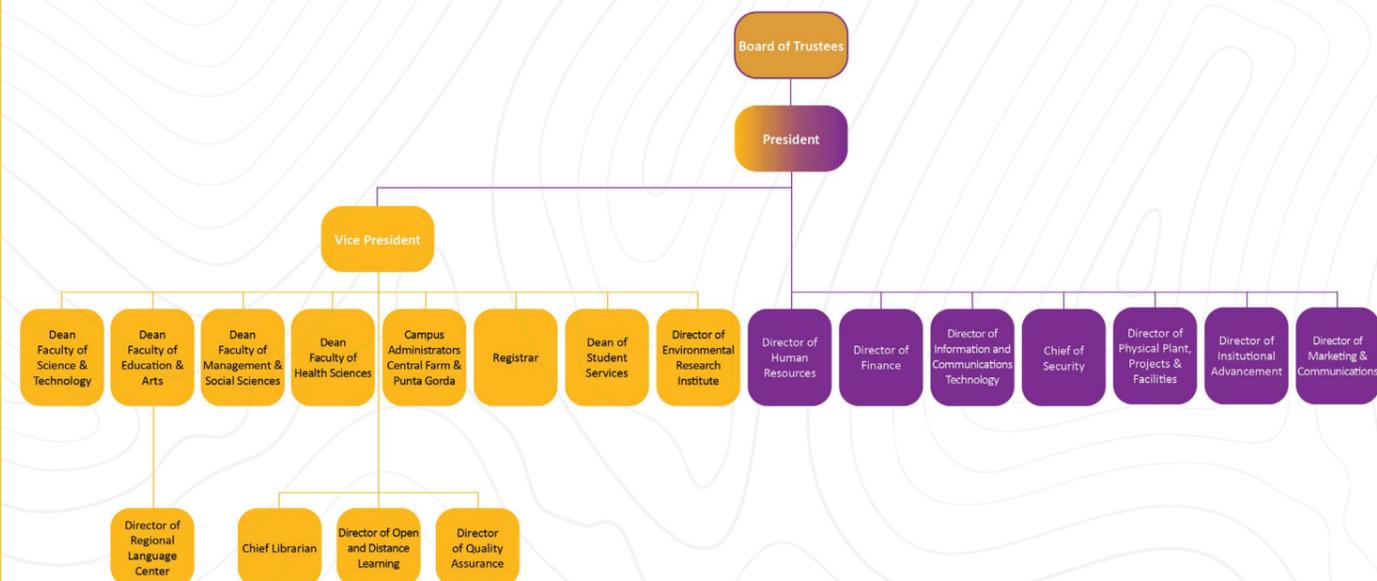
**Faculty**  
Female 12 | Male 7  
**Total 19**

**Staff**  
Female 37 | Male 24  
**Total 61**

Student Waiver Benefit  
2022-1 = 36 | 2022-2 = 46 | 2022-3 = 13  
**Total 95**



## ORGANOGRAM 2023





Crowe Belize LLP  
 35A Regent Street  
 Belize City, Belize  
 Main +501 227 6629  
 www.crowe.bz

## Independent auditor's report to the Board of Trustees of the University of Belize

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the University of Belize which comprise of the financial position as at 31 July 2023 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the University of Belize as at 31 July 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the University of Belize in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Responsibility of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IFRS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the ability of the University of Belize to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the University of Belize or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we:

- (i) exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- (ii) identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- (iii) obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- (iv) evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- (v) conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the University of Belize to continue as a going concern. If we should conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause an entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- (vi) evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- (vii) obtain sufficient audit evidence regarding the financial information of the University of Belize to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Crowe Belize LLP

14 December 2023

**University of Belize**
**Statement of financial position**

 As at 31 July  
 (In Belize dollars)

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents- unrestricted	6	7,230,204	8,413,920
Cash and cash equivalents- restricted	7	4,497,610	4,294,157
Short term investments- unrestricted	8	2,400,000	2,866,288
Short term investments- restricted	9	2,815,217	2,348,315
Student receivables	10	1,203,191	1,106,912
Government of Belize receivables	11	155,558	3,021
Prepayments		246,274	132,546
Other receivables		775,836	840,931
Employee loans and advances		27,944	13,318
Inventory	12	60,585	49,993
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>19,412,419</u>	<u>20,069,401</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Other assets	13	881,496	1,101,869
Property, plant and equipment	14	92,303,694	91,042,511
Investment in associate	15	450,000	450,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<u>93,635,190</u>	<u>92,594,380</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>113,047,609</u>	<u>112,663,781</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Line of credit	16	45,507	16,459
Trade and other payables	17	4,726,734	3,286,535
Gratuity and severance payable	18	325,091	91,574
Deferred income	21	602,370	1,140,879
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>5,699,702</u>	<u>4,535,447</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Gratuity and severance payable	18	7,243,319	7,279,296
Deferred income	21	1,113,967	935,924
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<u>8,357,286</u>	<u>8,215,220</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>14,056,988</u>	<u>12,750,667</u>

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

**University of Belize**
**Statement of financial position (continued)**

 As at 31 July  
 (In Belize dollars)

<b>Fund balances</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Capital grant		26,412,963	27,106,116
Revaluation surplus	20	62,331,775	62,331,775
General fund		10,245,883	10,475,223
<b>Total fund balances</b>		<u>98,990,621</u>	<u>99,913,114</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>		<u>113,047,609</u>	<u>112,663,781</u>

 The financial statements on pages 3 to 7 were approved and authorized for issue by the Board of Trustees on JANUARY 25, 2024 and are signed on its behalf by:

 _____ President	 _____ Chairperson, Audit Committee	 _____ Director of Finance Rep.
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See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

**University of Belize**
**Statement of comprehensive income**

For the year ended 31 July

*(In Belize dollars)*

	Note	2023	2022
<b>Operating revenues:</b>			
Tuition and fees		11,783,873	12,483,178
Other revenues	22	1,433,568	2,130,346
Government subvention		7,650,000	7,650,000
Amortization of capital grant	19	693,153	702,532
		<u>21,560,594</u>	<u>22,966,056</u>
<b>Operating expense:</b>			
General and administrative expense	23	2,601,186	1,612,394
Educational services and facilities	24	2,539,515	1,803,102
Depreciation	14	1,262,605	1,302,430
Employee benefits expense	25	15,635,343	15,148,647
		<u>22,038,649</u>	<u>19,866,573</u>
<b>(Deficit)/surplus from operating activities</b>		(478,055)	3,099,483
Non-operating revenues:			
Interest earned and investment income		248,715	225,350
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(229,340)	3,324,833
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income</b>		<u>(229,340)</u>	<u>3,324,833</u>

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

**University of Belize**
**Statement of changes in fund balances**

For the year ended 31 July

*(In Belize dollars)*

	Attributable to fund balances holders of the Company			
	Capital grant	Revaluation reserve	General fund	Total
<b>At 1 August 2021</b>	27,808,648	62,331,775	7,150,390	97,290,813
Surplus for the year	-	-	3,324,833	3,324,833
Amortization	(702,532)	-	-	(702,532)
<b>At 31 July 2022</b>	<u>27,106,116</u>	<u>62,331,775</u>	<u>10,475,223</u>	<u>99,913,114</u>
<b>At 1 August 2022</b>	27,106,116	62,331,775	10,475,223	99,913,114
(Deficit) for the year	-	-	(229,340)	(229,340)
Amortization	(693,153)	-	-	(693,153)
<b>At 31 July 2023</b>	<u>26,412,963</u>	<u>62,331,775</u>	<u>10,245,883</u>	<u>98,990,621</u>

See accompanying notes which are an integral part of these financial statements.

**University of Belize**
**Statement of cash flows**  
 For the year ended 31 July  
 (In Belize dollars)

	Note	2023	2022
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(229,340)	3,324,833
Adjustments for:			
Amortization of grant income		(693,153)	(702,532)
Expected credit loss	10	34,672	54,770
Depreciation	14	1,262,605	1,302,430
Provision of gratuity and severance	18	683,561	1,017,916
Interest income		(248,715)	(225,350)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment		(211)	(99,200)
Operating surplus before working capital changes		<u>809,419</u>	<u>4,672,867</u>
Changes in:			
Student receivables	10	(130,951)	(319,954)
Prepayments		(113,728)	(33,372)
Other receivables		65,095	(321,051)
Government of Belize receivables		(152,537)	79,678
Employee loans and advances		(14,626)	1,723
Other assets	13	220,373	-
Inventory	12	(10,592)	1,106
Trade and other payables	17	1,440,199	424,954
Operating surplus after working capital changes		<u>2,112,652</u>	<u>4,505,951</u>
Interest received		248,715	225,350
Gratuity and severance paid	18	(486,021)	(391,844)
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>1,875,346</u>	<u>4,339,457</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	14	(2,523,910)	(433,929)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		333	99,200
Net cash (used in) investing activities		<u>(2,523,577)</u>	<u>(334,729)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Line of credit	16	29,048	9,825
Deferred income	21	(360,466)	(112,590)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		<u>(331,418)</u>	<u>(102,765)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents- unrestricted		(979,649)	3,901,963
Cash and cash equivalents, August 1- unrestricted		8,413,920	8,124,615
Net transfers to cash and cash equivalents- restricted		(204,067)	(3,612,658)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents- unrestricted, 30 July</b>		<u><u>7,230,204</u></u>	<u><u>8,413,920</u></u>

# Annual Report

2022 - 2023

*Let your future start with us!*

**University of Belize**



[www.ub.edu.bz](http://www.ub.edu.bz)

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