



REMARKS

By the

THE HON. K. H. RANDOLPH HORTON JP. MP.
Minister of Education

On the occasion of

National School Counselling Week 2008
Career Week 2008

“Success depends above all, upon people. Build relationships, teams, partnerships and motivate people to contribute. Cultivate leadership, creativity, excellence. Listen; seek new ideas and advice.”

– Ruth Scott - Principal and Teacher

As a former student and teacher of The Berkeley Institute, a former Principal and now, Minister with responsibility for Education throughout Bermuda, I consider it a privilege to be here as we highlight the contribution of our school counselors and the tremendous positive influence they have on our student population. It is also an honour in conjunction with our celebration of school counselors to launch Career Week 2008 for our students here at the Berkeley Institute.

To me it is fitting that we have come to The Berkeley Institute to celebrate our islands guidance counselors who have, in my opinion, the challenge of steering our diverse population of students in every aspect of their lives. In a large student population such as The Berkeley Institute, we are all aware that our islands

young people, from every walk of life, bring to school with them all the challenges they face at home and out in the Bermudian community at large. Our counselors, throughout our system, continue to set higher goals and continue to reach our students exactly where they are.

In our local schools, the Ministry of Education, through our Student Services Department, has implemented a school counseling programme that is standardized and comprehensive. The programme stands as an integral part of the total learning experience for all students. The focus of the school counseling program is on the total well being of the child or adolescent and recognizes intellectual, emotional, spiritual, social and physical dimensions. Overall, the students benefit from a proactive counseling programme designed to promote their personal, social, educational and career development. As you can see, our ultimate goal is to maximize our student's potential to become fully functioning and responsible citizens in our community.

We must continue to celebrate our counselors. We cannot emphasize enough the hard work and dedication each one of these counselors displays as they provide advice and guidance to a student body where individuals are not alike and their needs are never the same. What exists as a stroke of incredible irony is that where we fail to meet our children's needs as parents at home or teachers in schools, the counselor is expected to join the solving of the problem where we left off. Against difficult odds, the counselors, in our system, have produced results from students who are disadvantaged. Victor Scott Primary School Counselor, Mr. Anthony Peets, is one of these outstanding school counselors. Mr. Peet's R.E.A.C.H Programme, **R**espect, **E**nthusiasm, **A**chievement, **C**itizenship and **H**ard Work, has motivated his students and totally enhanced the academic environment at the school. His programme stands as a genuine example of total commitment to the students which in turn produce positive results.

Anthony, know that the Government, the Ministry, the parents and the students you affect owe you an immense debt of gratitude. Thank you so much.

With that in mind, it is most fitting today to recognize all our school counselors and thank them for being the positive intermediaries in the lives of our students in the primary, middle and senior schools. We thank them for caring enough to choose a profession that often goes unrecognized. Life in Bermuda is tough as it is and most guidance counselors, like our teachers, are asked to balance complex careers in education while managing families at home. The job for them only gets more difficult as our students get older just ask any of our counselors who work in the Senior schools and at the Bermuda College.

In addition to celebrating National School Counseling Week, we congratulate The Berkeley Institute for launching their '**Career Week 2008**'. As we are all aware, Bermuda is a leader in the global marketplace. Our increasing need for highly skilled employees has placed an initial responsibility squarely at the feet of our educators. In response, we are exploring ways to meet the ever changing demands on our students preparing to enter the work force. In the Ministry, we are working diligently to meet every student where they are academically, assist parents and students in the management of the student's academic requirements and synchronize the interaction between educator, parent and child. As you can see, your pursuit of a future career is connected to the guidance counselor who can offer you, and your parents, valuable support in making the best further education choice possible.

Students, this Career Week is for you. Gather as much information as you can about the careers that are offered to you in Bermuda and never be afraid to ask questions. Remember the words of renowned author Frank Tyger, "***Success won't just come to you. It must be met at least halfway.***"

Therefore, in celebration and commemoration of our Counselors in Bermuda, I proclaim the following;

WHEREAS, School counsellors are employed in our schools to help students reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, School counsellors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

WHEREAS, School counsellors help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children; and

WHEREAS, School counsellors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves; and

WHEREAS, School counsellors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counselling programs and help students become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive developmental school counselling programmes are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school;

Therefore, I, the Honourable K. H. Randolph Horton, JP, MP, Minister of Education, do hereby proclaim February 4-8, 2008, as National School Counselling Week.

Thank you.

