



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministry of Education

Contact:
Ministry of Education
P. O. Box N-3913
Phone: 502- 2708
Fax: 356 -0007

TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN ROYAL BANK “MASTERING MEMORY” WORKSHOP



Educators learn that memory is a major component in learning. They were introduced to the A.C.E. concept to aid them in teaching students to recollect information.

Pictured standing L-R are platform guests: Mrs. Judith Major, Principal, Anatol Rodgers High School; Mr. Willard Barr, District Superintendent, Southeastern District, Ministry of Education; Mr. Nathaniel Beneby, Vice President and Country Head, Royal Bank of Canada; Mrs. Elma Garraway, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education; Mrs. Eulease Beneby, Principal, C. V. Bethel Senior High School and Mr. Abraham Stubbs, President of Nassau Association of High School Principals and Principal of D. W. Davis Junior High School. Seated are participants in the workshop.

NASSAU, The Bahamas -- Two hundred educators from public senior and junior high schools were introduced to an innovative approach to teaching at a “Mastering Memory” workshop sponsored by RBC Royal Bank of Canada. The event was conducted by Dr. Sam Heastie; a Bahamian educator who is currently an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The two-day seminar was held August 25th – 26th, 2009, at the Church of God of Prophecy Training Centre, East Street and Sunlight Cottage.

Mr. Nathaniel Beneby, Vice President and Country Head of Royal Bank of Canada, Bahamas and Turks & Caicos Islands, told the participants at the opening ceremony that the challenges we are experiencing in the educational system are not due to a lack of dedication from many qualified teachers, but low test scores and declining graduation rates are major issues facing The Bahamas.

“To solve this crisis, every person, business and organization in The Bahamas must join together to support teachers as they work day in and day out to teach our children. We will continue to invest in our teachers with a focus on improving educational achievement not only today, but for years to come. Our future depends on it, “Mr. Beneby stated.

Mrs. Elma Garraway, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education also spoke at the workshop’s opening ceremony. She thanked RBC for being a true and exemplary corporate citizen particularly for assisting The College of The Bahamas in its quest to achieve university status.

She applauded the bank for initiating the seminar which will impact teachers’ efforts to assist students in recalling and applying information in a meaningful way. Mrs. Garraway reminded the teachers that recalling information is the first rung on the ladder of Bloom’s Taxonomy which is a core concept in learning. She also noted that if students fail to retain and recollect knowledge then national exam results are less likely to be favourable.

The Permanent Secretary also pointed out that this year the Ministry of Education provided many opportunities for professional development for teachers through the specialized disciplines and the National Education Summit held in July, 2009. She also stated that one of the key goals of the Department of Education and Ministry for the upcoming year is to place greater emphasis on principals as instructional leaders rather than plant managers. She noted that principals must take the lead in working towards the academic success of their schools. The Permanent Secretary also used the opportunity to accept Royal Bank’s offer to sponsor leadership training seminar for principals.

Dr. Heastie, the workshop’s facilitator told the participants at the opening that it was a privilege for him to serve them through the workshop and that his goal is eventually to return to The Bahamas to contribute to an educational system that will become number one in the world.