

## **CASE STUDY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

### **COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA**

### **AND INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES (IU)**

Launched in 2021, the Guyana Online Academy (GOAL) is a part of the Government of Guyana's transformative agenda to have a larger pool of more educated workforce. GOAL, through partnerships with several international Universities around the world is providing a myriad of pertinent human capacity building programs ranging from Certificates to Doctoral degrees for Guyanese across the length and breadth of the country. The primary objective is to deliver 20,000 scholarships by 2025

**The Guyana Government's vision is to ensure equal access to quality tertiary education for all Guyanese, creating a more versatile and empowered workplace. GOAL wants to provide diverse vocational and academic programs through innovative and flexible formats to persons seeking advanced educational opportunities.**

### **WHAT IS GUYANA ONLINE ACADEMY'S PURPOSE AND GOAL OF THE COLLABORATION?**

**GOAL is fostering partnerships with multiple universities to provide affordable and appealing programs to meet the socio-economic needs of Guyana.**

In the search for universities that can provide quality and flexible online higher education for GOAL found that IU meets and exceeds these requirements. It offers a fully online model that facilitates students to start at any time and study at their own pace. IU's flexible online approach suits the needs of students who are mature, working, and reside outside of our urban areas. Further, IU offers flexible eligibility requirements and on demand support from tutors and study coaches as needed.

Commencing and completing university education with IU offers many added values:

- Accredited degrees that are internationally recognized
- Students have the option of transitioning from 'online student' to 'on-campus student' in Germany, and can take advantage of the dual degree: IU and LSBU
- Student can gain access to quality learning materials and learning management system

## WHAT IS THE STATUS QUO?

In order to meet IU's admission requirements, the necessary credentials had to be submitted first by GOAL and now many potential students have access to IU's programs. After the start-up phase, the partnership has grown and become well established.

The transparent and collegial approach to overcoming initial enrollment issues is commendable. Both parties are confident that this partnership will continue to grow in Guyana and the Caribbean.

**GOAL anticipates enrolling between 200-400 students in 2022.**



The Government of Guyana, through the Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), is committed to investing in the advancement of its human resources. As Guyana forges ahead in the oil and gas industry, now more than ever, we need to inculcate in our labour force - the critical skillsets to develop the nation. Partnering with IU is a significant step in this investment journey. With the range of technological, engineering, and other economy driven programs offered by IU, many Guyanese and ultimately the nation will benefit significantly from quality education which will provide our students with the best possible start to their careers.

**Dr. Jacob Opadeyi, GOAL's Director**