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# Caribbean Science Foundation



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **2012 Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE): Caribbean Students arrive at CSF for total immersion in STEM**

Ten students ranging in age from 15 to 17 and from 6 different countries (Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago) have arrived at the CSF, located on the Barbados campus of the University of the West Indies, to participate in the inaugural Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE). The SPISE is an intensive summer program for Caribbean high-school students who are interested in pursuing careers in science or engineering. The first annual SPISE runs from August 6 to September 1, 2012. The SPISE is one of the STEM education reform initiatives of the Caribbean Science Foundation with the long-term goal of helping to diversify the economies of the Region by stimulating more technology-based entrepreneurship within the Region. Both UWI and CXC are partners in the program.



The SPISE is modeled after the well-known and highly successful MITES program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ([web.mit.edu/mites](http://web.mit.edu/mites)), and includes courses in calculus, physics and biochemistry taught by eminent academic and industry scientists and engineers from the Caribbean and the U.S.

Students in the 2012 SPISE will participate in hands-on projects as they work in teams to design, build and test systems in the areas of robotics and electronics. A highlight of the 2012 SPISE is the opportunity for students to assemble and operate underwater robots, a generous gift from the Sea Grant Program of MIT. In addition, the SPISE will include a brief introduction to Mandarin, and a humanities course covering: (a) the "one-Caribbean" concept, and (b) ethics in science and engineering. Students will demonstrate their hands-on projects at the conclusion of the program in a forum that will be open to the public.

All students participate free of charge, thanks to generous donations from sponsors, including Scotiabank, Williams Industries (Barbados), Light and Power Holdings, St. Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC), MIT Sea Grant Program, the Neal & Massy Foundation, Central Bank of Barbados, Caribbean Development Bank, Belize Telemedia Limited, National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, BG Energy Holdings Limited, and Mr. Nicholas Braithwaite's PETNA Foundation. The cost is approximately US\$6,000 per student, and students are branded with the name of their sponsors. Over the next 5 years, the goal is to grow the program so that it serves up to 50 students annually. For more information about sponsoring students, please contact Prof. Cardinal Warde ([warde.csf@gmail.com](mailto:warde.csf@gmail.com) or 1-617-699-1281).

It is anticipated that students who complete the SPISE will eventually attend some of the best science and engineering universities in the world, and become scientific, engineering and business leaders in academia and industry within the Caribbean. For more information, please visit <http://caribbeanscience.org>.