GRADUATES CAN HELP ECONOMY

THE University of the West Indies (UWI) needs to generate a greater number of graduates in science and engineering. This was the advice given by interim Executive Director of the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF), Dr. Cardinal Warde.

He was speaking to the media recently at the 2012 Student Programme for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE) student presentations, held at the 3Ws Oval, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus. The MIT professor believes that significant changes need to be made at the tertiary education level, and made the call for more graduates from the University in the area of science and engineering. This, argued Dr. Warde, would assist in the creation of foreign capital inflows as well as increases in employment.

Entrepreneurship urged at an early age

"We need to turn out more graduates who can build and create things, demonstrated by the students today, converting them into technologies that can be competitive on a global market which would also bring foreign exchange into the island," he said. He continued, "Entrepreneurs are the ones to do that but you need to have an incubator to grow these entrepreneurs and we must start at the elementary and secondary schools, we want to affect change there and hopefully, slowly the universities will come around."

"We want to hatch these entrepreneurs very young, at seven and eight years old teaching them how companies make money, how banks work so that we can have a new culture of kids coming around who not only think of who will employ them when they grow up, but also who they may employ because you want them to think about starting their own business," he added. (JM)