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Largest class graduates from prestigious regional Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE)

Bridgetown, Barbados, 12 August 2017 - The Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF), a non-profit organization promoting science and technology in the Caribbean, announced the graduation of 24 students - the largest class yet – from its flagship program, the Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE). The low was 10 students in the 2012 inaugural class, and the previous high was 22 in the 2014 class. This year, students ages 16-18 participated from 13 countries – Antigua, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad. The annual four-week program was held on the Barbados campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), and included university-level calculus, physics, biochemistry, entrepreneurship, and Caribbean unity, as well as hands-on projects in computer programming, under-water robotics and renewable energy/electronics.

SPISE instructors comprised academic and industry professionals from the U.S. including MIT, and faculty from UWI. In addition, career seminars from successful professionals ranged from biomedical engineering and computational biology to optics and economics. Guest speakers included Barbadian Dr. Andrew Phillips from Microsoft (U.K.), Professor Robert Sah from the University of California – San Diego, Dr. Dinah Sah - Chief Scientific Officer at Voyager Therapeutics, Dr. Jeanese Badenock – Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology at UWI-Cave Hill, Barbadian Dr. DeLisle Worrell former Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, Professor Jay Mandle from Colgate University, and Barbadian Professor Cardinal Warde from MIT.

On Friday, August 11, 2017, the program culminated with the students of the 2017 SPISE presenting their underwater robotics, renewable energy, computer programming and entrepreneurship projects to an enthusiastic audience of sponsors, colleagues, friends and family.

Professor Cardinal Warde, Interim Executive Director of the CSF, who launched SPISE in 2012, said that “the program’s goal is to help groom the next generation of Caribbean science and engineering leaders. Creativity, innovation, teamwork and excellence are the standards at SPISE, and the students graduate with not only newly found knowledge but also increased self-confidence.” Dr. Dinah Sah, SPISE Director, pointed out that “of the 109 SPISE graduates, many have gone on to the world’s top universities, and this September, we will have 4 former SPISE students at MIT, the largest number at any single university outside the Region. We are tremendously grateful to our sponsors and supporters without whom this program would not have been possible.”



Students testing underwater robots

SPISE graduates receive assistance with their university applications, and are eligible for internship positions in the Caribbean, Canada and the USA, which give them the opportunity to work in business settings and to experience first-hand the application of science and engineering to developing products.

Key important partners for SPISE are the UWI - Cave Hill Campus, and the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). More information about SPISE can be found at <http://caribbeanscience.org/projects/spise.php>