

# Go into engineering but give back

By Kerri Gooding

**CARIBBEAN students are being afforded the opportunity to understand Science and Engineering with the hope that they pursue viable career options in these underexplored areas going forward, because they may hold the key to changing the region's economic situation.**

And considering the huge investment being made by the region, the students are being urged to giveback to the Caribbean, instead of exacerbating the brain drain issue which exists.

Sharing this opinion yesterday at the Student Project Presentations to mark the conclusion of the four-week 2015 Student programme for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE) at the 3Ws Oval, the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus, was Interim Executive Director of the Caribbean Science Foundation, Prof. Cardinal Warde.

He told *The Barbados Advocate*, "We are teaching them to see the whole world as a global village and to be able to play in it as scientists and engineers by designing products and systems in the future

based on the foundation we give them to change the economic landscape of the Caribbean."

In his opening remarks, he also told the audience that the region needs jobs, hence it needs more engineers because there are plenty doctors and lawyers and it is hard for them to make a living in those fields presently, therefore students are being encouraged by the Foundation to become leaders in the Science and Engineering industry and academia.

He charged, "We want them to go to the strongest schools that they can get into, so that they can rub shoulders with other

youngsters from all over the world that are thinking the way they think and that are interested in Science and Engineering."

"Some will make friends and groups and form companies; [whereas] some may become professors and influence others to go on and do great things, but we tell them all the time don't forget the Caribbean if you go abroad."

Moreover, he reiterated that emphasis is placed on encouraging them to contribute to the region in some way, "either come back or if you start a business overseas, make sure that there is a footprint here because the Caribbean has invested a lot in you and you should give back."

Warde said that the future is bright for the gifted 16 and 17 year old students who qualify for the challenging programme yearly.

Delighted, he boasted that some of the 66 students who have participated in the programme over the past four years have gone on to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T), Stanford, Columbia and others, with one Barbadian student in this year's cohort of 18, having just received a Barbados Scholarship.

Therefore, he urged that the aim of the CSF is to keep the pipeline full of innovative young people in Science and Engineering careers so that "they can change the economics of the region. We could have the next 'Google' coming straight from one of these islands."