

BRIEF HISTORY
OF
THE ST. VINCENT TEACHERS' COLLEGE
(1964-2017)

This publication forms part of a programme of activities to mark the 53rd anniversary of the College.

The St. Vincent Teachers' College was established in October 1964 with a cohort of 30 students. During the period October 1964 to June 1968, a one year basic course of all-round training was provided for experienced teachers in primary schools who had never attended a Training College. Prior to the opening of the College, supernumerary and grade teachers received some level of training at Pupil Teachers' Centers which were set up across the island in the 1950s. A few Vincentian teachers also received training at the Erdiston Teachers' College in Barbados.

The initial functions of the St. Vincent Teachers' College were:

1. to provide a one-year basic course of all-round training for primary school teachers;
2. to provide a cadre of two-thirds trained teachers;

3. to provide one year's initial training to be followed, after three years, by a second year of training for selected teachers.



**Teachers' College Complex at Arnos Vale
(First permanent location)**

The first group of student-teachers received tuition at the Old Grammar School building. In those early years, the College continued to be housed in a succession of borrowed buildings until 1973 when the institution was moved to permanent quarters at Arnos Vale. These facilities which were constructed to accommodate 200 students were a gift to St. Vincent from the British Government. The College, now the Division of Teacher Education, is presently housed at the Villa Campus of the now amalgamated St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.

In the initial period, the staff of the college provided for a principal, senior lecturer, two lecturers and seven part-time tutors. The first Principal was Mr. E. W. Holmes, a Canadian. He served from 1964 to 1966 and was succeeded by two other Canadian principals. The first local Principal was Miss Ednitt Providence who served the institution from 1972 to 1977.



Mrs. Ednitt Providence-Mitchell (First local Principal)

ROLE OF THE REGIONAL UNIVERSITY

Assistance in the initial organization of the St. Vincent Teachers' College was provided by the then Institute of Education, University of the West Indies (Mona). Subsequently, The U.W.I School of Education, Cave Hill Campus became the certifying body for teachers pursuing the training programme at the College. By way of a Joint Board of Teacher Education for the Eastern Caribbean, the Campus continues to assist in curriculum development for the externally assessed subjects, providing in-service training through regular workshops/seminars for staff members in these areas.

The U.W.I School of Education continues to host a Biennial Conference on Teacher Education which is attended by the Principals/Deans of the Colleges and the Chief Education Officer from the respective islands. At this conference, matters affecting Teacher Education in the sub-region are discussed. The U.W.I also assumes responsibility for setting and moderating the marking of the final examinations in the externally assessed subjects.

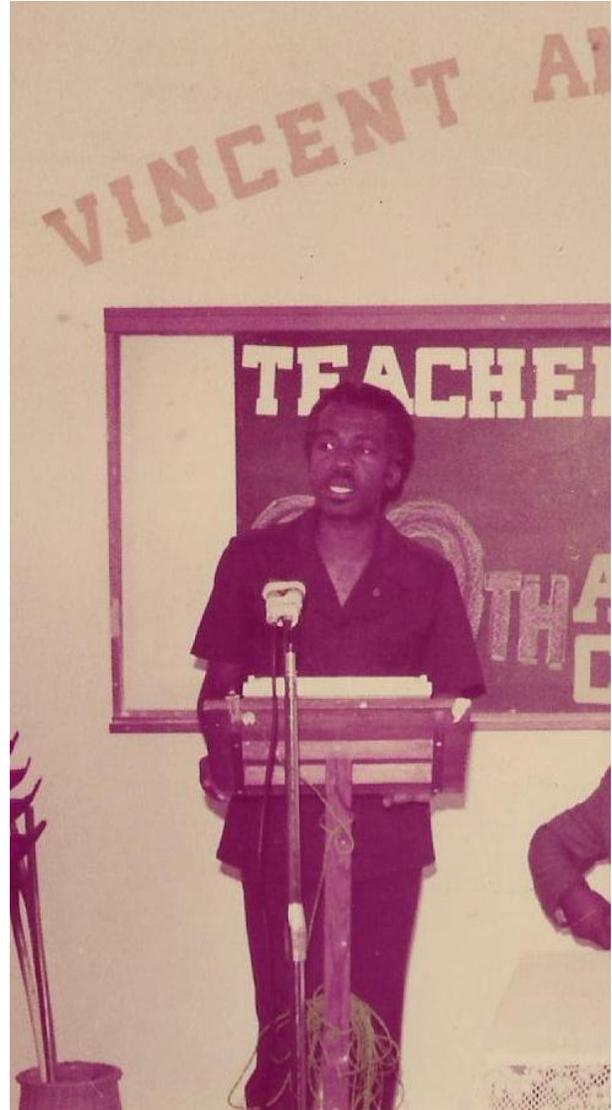
Over the years, there have been changes in the curriculum of the College in terms of the teaching organization and structure, as well as the actual syllabuses taught. The areas covered in the early years included:

EXTERNAL SUBJECTS	INTERNAL SUBJECTS
Education Theory	Agriculture
English	Health Education
Mathematics	Home Economics
Science	Industrial Arts
Social Studies	Music
Practical Teaching	Physical Education
Individual Study	Research Methods

Students who passed all seven university-assessed areas as well as one internal subject were issued a certificate by the U.W.I. A holder of this certificate was eligible for admission to some faculties of the university.



Academic & Clerical Staff-1994



Mr. Chester Rogers (Longest serving local Principal to date)

SOME SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

1968: The College course was lengthened to two years and the curriculum revised. As time went on and individual subject areas were

evaluated, it became obvious that two years were not enough to adequately cover the course. To this end, a pre-college year was introduced in 1986. This focused on academic upliftment and students attended sessions every Friday on a day release basis. The pre-college programme has since been discontinued.

1984: The College, in response to a perceived need for trained teachers in the lower forms of the secondary schools, began a secondary teacher training programme. The secondary programme was suspended in 1991 because of the small number of eligible applicants and pending further evaluation. It was subsequently reintroduced in 2001 as part of the programme of the Division of Teacher Education at the now amalgamated St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.

1986-1988: There was an attempt at joint teacher training between the Teachers' College and the Technical College at Arnos Vale. Students were trained in the areas of Agriculture,

Business Studies, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts. The Technical College assumed responsibility for training in the areas of Agriculture, Business and Industrial Arts while the Teachers' College taught all students at the Use of English, Mathematics, Education Theory and Home Economics.

1988-Present: Significant developments since 1988 include the introduction of the Associate Degree in Education programme (ADE), training in Early Childhood Education, reintroduction of the Secondary Programme, training in Technical Vocational Education, offering of part-time Bachelor's degree, post-graduate diploma for untrained graduates and the move from the Arnos Vale location to the Villa Campus.



SVGCC, Villa - (Present location of the DTE)



Mrs. Harriette DaSilva (Dean/Division of Teacher Education, SVGCC)

training sessions still take place every year and are conducted by the dedicated staff of the Division of Teacher Education. Therefore in the primary and secondary schools there is a cadre of trained cooperating teachers who can assist the College lecturers in the guidance and assessment of students on teaching practice.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The College, mindful of its central role in the development of education, works closely with the schools through various outreach programmes. College staff continues to assist in staff development programmes in the nation's schools.

With the assistance of U.W.I. personnel, training sessions were held for Qualified Assistant Teachers in order to develop competencies in areas such as the effective use of the teaching practice assessment form used by the College as well as training in Clinical Supervision. The

PRINCIPALS OF THE ST. VINCENT TEACHERS' COLLEGE

Over the years, the College was able to accomplish its objectives of producing trained teachers for the classrooms under the effective leadership provided by the following persons:

1964 – 1966: Mr. E. W. Holmes
1966 – 1969: Mr. James. H. Ramsey
1969 - 1972: Mr. Clifford. S. Bawden
1972 - 1977: Mrs. Ednitt Providence-
Mitchell (First local Principal)
1977 - 1998: Mr. Chester Rogers (Longest
serving local Principal)
1998 – 1999: Mr. Christopher Dennie
1999 – 2003: Dr. Veronica Marks
2003 – 2004: Mr. Philemon Williams (Ag)
2004 – 2005: Mrs. Deborah Bacchus
2005 – 2008: Dr. Alston Jack
2008 – 2015: Mrs. Eula Adams (Dean/DTE)
2015 – Present: Mrs. Harriette Da Silva
(Dean/DTE)