

ABCAS CELEBRATES FIRST SHORT COURSE GRADUATES



Photo Caption:

Top left: Members of the ABCAS short course graduating class. **Top right:** Minister Daryll Matthew congratulates Broiler Production graduate Marsha Battice. **Bottom left:** ABCAS Vice-President Dr. Na-Ajele Williams-Buffonge presents an award to a graduate. **Bottom right:** Minister Matthew, Director of Education Mr. Clare Browne, ABCAS President Dr. E. Jonah Greene and members of the Board of Trustees.

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda (October 15, 2026) — The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) celebrated its first cohort of short course graduates on Wednesday, October 14, during a ceremony at the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre, recognizing the successful completion of training across 11 professional and technical programmes.

With more than 100 course completions recorded, the graduation marked an important occasion for the College, bringing together individuals from a wide cross-section of Antigua and Barbuda's workforce.

Among the graduating class were board members, farmers, janitorial and security personnel, established professionals, and people from various other occupational backgrounds. The diversity of the graduating class reflected the accessibility of the College's short course offerings and its ability to meet the training needs of people at different stages of their careers.



The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, the Honourable Daryll S. Matthew; Director of Education, Mr. Clare Browne; Chairman of the ABCAS Board of Trustees, Dr. Vernon Solomon; Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Deserie Markham; President of ABCAS, Dr. E. Jonah Greene; Vice-President, Dr. Na-Ajele Williams-Buffonge; other members of the Board of Trustees; members of the College's executive leadership and management teams; faculty and staff; graduates and their families; and invited guests.

The short course programme drew on the areas of specialization represented across the College's five campuses: The Eustace Hill Campus (Business, Innovation and Information Technology), Glanville's Campus (School of Agriculture), Harrison Centre (Technical and Vocational Education), Muriel O'Mard Campus (Tourism and Hospitality), and Dr. Alister Francis Campus (Education, Arts, Science and Industry).

The courses offered included Broiler Production, Basic Household Plumbing Repairs, Crop Production, Electrical Fundamentals, Hospitality Service Excellence – Front Desk, HVACR for Technicians, Governance and Insurance for Board Directors, Professional Bartending and Mixology, Professional Desserts and Presentation, Professional Eyelash Application, and Professional Food and Beverage Service.

Delivering the welcome remarks, President of ABCAS, Dr. E. Jonah Greene, shared her vision for the College to become the institution that individuals and organisations turn to whenever they seek to improve their knowledge and skills.

She encouraged graduates to use what they had learnt to create opportunities for themselves and others, reminding them that the value of their training extends beyond the certificates they received. She concluded her remarks with the words, *"I am ABCAS. We are ABCAS."*

Delivering congratulatory remarks, Chairman of the ABCAS Board of Trustees, Dr. Vernon Solomon, emphasized the importance of personal choice and lifelong learning.

"Today, one word comes to mind: choices. You made the choice to develop a new skill when it would have been easy to remain comfortable. Lifelong learning is an important part of life, particularly as technology continues to evolve. We all have an obligation to continue growing."



Dr. Solomon further expressed the Board of Trustees' commitment to ensuring that individuals who enter ABCAS are given the opportunity and support to succeed.

Minister of Education, Science and Technology, the Honourable Daryll S. Matthew, emphasized the importance of education and skills training in Antigua and Barbuda's national development.

"Now more than ever, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has expanded access to education, ensuring that more citizens have opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to national development. If we are going to be serious about food security, we have to support the School of Agriculture. I also want to appeal to corporate Antigua and Barbuda to support these graduates by providing opportunities through internships and employment, allowing them to put the skills they have acquired into practice. We must continue to expand our short course offerings so that more Antiguan and Barbudans can benefit from training that prepares them for the workforce and contributes to the development of our country."

Vice-President of ABCAS, Dr. Na-Ajele Williams-Buffonge, who oversees academic affairs, including the College's short course programmes, was among the officials who presented certificates to the graduates, alongside Minister Matthew and Dr. Solomon.

A major feature of the ceremony was the recognition of the Most Outstanding Students across the 11 short course programmes, acknowledging graduates who distinguished themselves through their performance during the training period.

Delivering the graduate response, Ms. Joe Anna Stevens of the School of Agriculture reflected on the experiences and challenges that brought graduates to the ceremony.

"Today represents hope, achievement and success. Behind these gowns are journeys filled with long days, demanding responsibilities and, for some of us, the fear of trying something new. ABCAS gave us an opportunity to take that step. To my fellow graduates, take what you have learnt and put it to good use. Continue to learn, apply what you know, advance and, most importantly, give yourself a chance."

Stevens also expressed special appreciation to the School of Agriculture and the course facilitators for their guidance and support throughout the programmes.

The graduation marked the completion of ABCAS's first short course programmes under its unified structure. The College intends to build on these offerings,



providing further opportunities for individuals to acquire skills that can be applied in their workplaces, businesses and communities.

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