



Tribute to The Late Mrs. Norma Holder, B.Sc., B.A., M.A., Dip. Ed., GCM.

It was with much sadness that the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions Inc. (ACTI) learnt of the passing of Mrs. Norma Holder on Sunday, 14 February 2016.

Mrs Holder was associated with ACTI from its conceptualisation and establishment in the late 1980's. This arose out of discussions surrounding the need for a mechanism to assist in the strengthening of tertiary-level institutions and to effect better articulation between their programme offerings and those of the University of the West Indies. On the incorporation of ACTI in 1990, Mrs. Holder was elected to serve as one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Association under the Presidency of Sir Alister McIntyre. She gave sterling service in this capacity for six years before being elected to the office of President and leading the Association for the period 1996 – 2002.

During this tenure, she represented ACTI widely on the Councils and Boards of various institutions, such as the UWI Cave Hill Campus Council, the Board for Non-Campus Countries and Distance Education and the Interim Governance Committee of the Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network. Under her Presidency, she saw the Association grow in stature where, e.g., AGM's were expanded to include a Conference and AGM and her impact was felt on the regularly-held monthly local Chapter meetings. Mrs Holder was very methodical, yet her meetings were always conducted with dignity and consummate ease.

Pioneering work on the Associate Degree, qualifications framework, articulation, recognition and accreditation was done under Mrs. Holder's stewardship. We saw a transformation of tertiary education since the formation of ACTI, some of it due to internal forces and some due to external pressures. It was remarkable that Mrs. Holder was able to remain as gracious as she always was while guiding her own institution - The Barbados Community College (BCC) - and our regional association – ACTI - through the many transitions that took place while she was at the helm.

Even after her retirement as Principal of the BCC, Mrs. Holder showed keen interest in lending assistance to ACTI and was made an Honorary Life Member in 2004. She continued to be an invaluable resource, committed to the furtherance of ACTI's mission, and was actively associated with the work of ACTI until her passing. She will be remembered for her outstanding dedication to education and training development in the Caribbean. She was indeed a gracious lady whose legacy will be indelibly etched on our minds. Requiescat in pace.

The ACTI community extends its deepest condolences to her husband Dr. Jean Holder, daughters and other family members.