



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



Tel (592) 6233154  
(592) 6233156  
(592) 6233159  
E-mail [pace@uog.edu.gy](mailto:pace@uog.edu.gy)

**UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA**  
**PACE**  
**PHILANTHROPY, ALUMNI & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Greater Georgetown  
P.O. Box 101110  
Guyana, South America

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Advanced Academic and Research Programme in Sustainable Transformation of Guyana Launched**

*(GEORGETOWN/ GUYANA/ CANADIAN OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION COMPANY, CGX ENERGY INC. (CGX) and JV PARTNER FEC FUND MAJOR UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA /TRENT UNIVERSITY Advanced Academic and Research Programme// (UG)/09/30/19.)*

The launching of CGX-FEC funded Advanced Academic and Research Programme in Sustainable Transformation of Guyana between The University of Guyana and Trent University on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at The Education Lecture Theatre (ELT), University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, Georgetown, Guyana is the culmination of many months of dedicated work.

The path breaking programme will see the equivalent of Canadian \$5 million invested by CGX and FEC in creating a cadre of highly qualified individuals at the University of Guyana. These 12 academics are expected to become the pivotal trainers of the next generation of highly skilled Guyanese required to truly transform the country into a robust sustainable economy.

Importantly, the program is targeted at addressing the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals as they apply to Guyana. As such, the training and research programmes will focus on the following areas: Watershed Ecosystems and Water Quality; Sustainable Food and Agriculture; Indigenous Studies; Natural Products, Materials Physics and Chemistry.

Funding covers six elements over five years. These are (1) The involvement of a world-class team of academics from Trent University and industry professionals from FEC and CGX under the leadership of an internationally acclaimed Guyanese Professor and Research Scientist (2) The funding of 12 scholarship awards for the pursuit of advanced level degrees at Trent University (3) The development and funding of local research projects in areas of greatest national need for Guyana (4) Provision of technical support in areas critical to the transformation of The University of Guyana (5) Enabling of a mentoring structure leading to robust publication output and (6) Financial support for administration of the program for both Universities.

With the advent of significant commercial petroleum discoveries offshore Guyana since 2015, Guyana’s reserves of petroleum are currently estimated to be higher than six billion barrels of oil equivalent, with exploration increasing at an exponential rate. The country is therefore poised for massive economic growth but faces a serious challenge with respect to absorptivity for this growth among the local population and in the non-petroleum sectors. CGX and its partner FEC have responded to this need with this transformative programme and have engaged with partners The University of Guyana and Trent University to address major

national deficits in training and research related to the development of the sustainable sectors of the Guyanese economy as part of their CSR programmes in Guyana.

Prof Paloma Mohamed, Chairman of the University of Guyana's Transitional Management Committee (TMC) which is running the institution, has said that "the University of Guyana which has been at the center for higher education training for 57 years is expected to respond rapidly to Guyana future needs. Massive inflows are needed to help rapidly transform The University to meet national needs. We are delighted that CGX and FEC have answered the call, and Trent will be joining us as an institutional partner."

Dr. Neil Emery, Vice President, Research and Innovation at Trent University, says partnering in the new research programme is a natural evolution for Trent's long relationship with the Guyanese nation. "For over 50 years, Trent has welcomed outstanding Guyanese students who graduate to fulfilling and successful careers. When Guyanese Dr. Suresh Narine, himself a Trent alumnus, accepted a prestigious Professorship and Research Chair position at Trent University in 2009, the institution also deepened its ties with Guyana and formed a relationship with Guyana's Institute of Applied Science and Technology," said Dr. Emery. "Today, we are delighted to continue to host Guyanese students as an integral partner in this ground-breaking CSR programme. This effort will engage Trent's world-class programs, guided by renowned faculty and enabled by unique infrastructure in support of Guyana-centered research programs targeted at the realization of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals."

Trent University is well-positioned to lead the training for Guyanese graduate students with a long-standing reputation as a leader in social and environmental innovation. Trent is home to the first-ever Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies in North America, a globally-recognized School of the Environment, and a world-renowned Centre for Biomaterials Research. The University has also secured numerous academic and professional awards for sustainable food and development.

CGX commented: "This programme reflects the deeply held values of CGX and our JV Partner, FEC. For 21 years, CGX has lived up to its regard as Guyana's Indigenous Oil Company, templating CSR and local content for the industry in Guyana. CGX's leadership is deeply embedded in the fabric of Guyana and this unique programme would not be possible without the varied but interconnected involvement of our leadership in academia, industry and sustainable development. CGX and FEC are honored to be working with the University of Guyana and Trent University to enable the growth of Guyana's sustainable sectors."

### ***About Trent University***

One of Canada's top universities, Trent University was founded on the ideal of interactive learning that's personal, purposeful and transformative. Consistently recognized nationally for leadership in teaching, research and student satisfaction, Trent attracts excellent students from across the country and around the world. Here, undergraduate and graduate students connect and collaborate with faculty, staff and their peers through diverse communities that span residential colleges, classrooms, disciplines, hands-on research, co-curricular and community-based activities. Across all disciplines, Trent brings critical, integrative thinking to life every day. Today, Trent's unique approach to personal development through supportive, collaborative community engagement is in more demand than ever. Students lead the way by co-creating experiences rooted in dialogue, diverse perspectives and collaboration. In a learning environment that builds life-long passion for inclusion, leadership and social change, Trent's students, alumni, faculty and staff are engaged global citizens who are catalysts in developing sustainable solutions to complex issues. Trent's Peterborough campus boasts award-winning architecture in a breathtaking natural setting on the banks of the Otonabee River, just 90 minutes from

downtown Toronto, while Trent University Durham Greater Toronto Area, and delivers a distinct mix of programming in the east GTA.

### ***About the University of Guyana***

With a current enrollment of some 8,000 students, UG has graduated more than 40,000 students in its 56-year history. Graduates have gone on to successful careers locally, regionally and internationally. The University is also a major contributor to the national economy and to business and industry. Established in 1963 with one campus, at Turkeyen, The University of Guyana (UG) expanded in 2000 with the addition of the Tain Campus and 5 satellite campuses across Guyana for continuing education. It now offers more than 121 under-graduate and post-graduate programmes including Engineering, Environmental Studies, Forestry, Urban Planning and Management, Tourism Studies, Education, Creative Arts, Economics, Law, Medicine, Optometry and Nursing. Several online programmes are available. The University of Guyana is currently embarking on the first period in a 20-year transformational track which is geared to produce the graduates to fulfill the needs of an increasingly different and complex country and world. UG 2040 Blueprint envisages at least one University graduate per household; total technical command of subject matter in key strategic areas; inclusive training and research for problem solving; modelling for excellence in every aspect of operations; positioning graduates to maximize potential and opportunities in the Guyana and international space; leveraging technology to accelerate and extend benefits of change and building the graduate who is fit in every way for the purpose of navigating life, conquering its challenges and adding highest value to our nation and people.

### **For more information kindly contact:**

Office of Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement (PACE),

University of Guyana,

Turkeyen Campus.

Contact #: 592-6233134, 592-6233159

Email: [pace@gmail.com](mailto:pace@gmail.com)

### **Trent University**

Celia Grimbley, Communications & Media Relations Officer

Address: 1600 W Bank Dr, Peterborough, ON K9L 0G2

Contact#: 705-748-1011 ext. 6180

Email: [celiagrimbley@trentu.ca](mailto:celiagrimbley@trentu.ca)

### **CGX**

Contact Name: Brooks Lyons,

Manager Commercial & Business Development of CGX Energy

Contact #: (832) 300-3200 Email: [blyons@cgxenergy.com](mailto:blyons@cgxenergy.com)