



## THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

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### FROM THE OFFICE OF T. BASWELL DONALDSON, CHAIRMAN, THE COLLEGE COUNCIL

**June 13, 2010**

Nassau, BAHAMAS – College of the Bahamas President Janyne Hodder will leave office June 30, 2010. She has performed in this office with great focus and commitment to a College mission “to support and drive national development through teaching, research & innovation and service to the community.”

President Hodder took up her post [July 2006] at The College at an incredibly pivotal time in the institution’s development. She met a College on the verge of transition. Managing transition, managing change is perhaps the greatest test of any leader and President Hodder has been the leader that the period and circumstances have demanded.

Under Hodder’s Leadership, the College of The Bahamas has been the beneficiary of more than \$20 million in gifts and pledges towards various purposes and projects. Such incredible support has facilitated the creation of new programmes, better infrastructure, increased funding for critical areas of research, funded study abroad opportunities, provided new scholarships and increased funding for financial aid, and supported the expansion of College campuses.

In just two and-a-half years, The College of The Bahamas has sent more than 40 of its students on study abroad and student exchange experiences, to colleges and universities across Canada, Costa Rica, England, Mexico, Spain, the United States and including a semester-at-sea with 10 ports of call to countries around the world including stops in Asia and Africa.

The 2009 Small Island Sustainability baccalaureate degree programme with bachelor of arts degrees in Ecotourism & Development and Policy Studies; and bachelor of science degrees in Environmental & Ecosystem management and Integrated Development & Planning, will be a signature programme for The College, with great promise and significance for the region.

Under President Hodder, research at The College has been a special priority. More than \$80,000 over the current and previous academic years has been allocated in grants for faculty and student research; an important College first, as was the welcoming of The College's first Scholars in Residence. These developments will have significant and enduring value not only for The College but the Bahamian community at large, which will be the ultimate beneficiary of the innovation and knowledge created through this research. One of the main thrusts of Hodder's university building goals was that "whereas colleges transmit knowledge, universities create knowledge".

Faculty development has also been one of Hodder's critical university building priorities. Over the past two years alone, The College has spent more than \$500,000 annually in paid study leave awards, including 11 Bahamians in doctoral degree programmes. The university goal has been to increase the number of faculty with doctorate degrees by 50% by the year 2015.

College capital development advances have been tremendous under Hodder's leadership. On June 10<sup>th</sup> this year, The College of The Bahamas broke ground for its \$4.0 million F. R. Wilson Graduate Business Centre, which will be home to The College's first graduate degree programme, a Master in Business Administration (MBA). In the coming academic year, The College will open the doors to the first phase of the new northern Bahamas campus, in Grand Bahama, which to date represents a \$10.1 million investment; followed by the opening of the \$28.0 million Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre; a facility that will stand out among the best in the region.

Other key capital development projects have included: the Performing Arts Centre (\$3.3M), pharmacy labs (\$1.6M), virtual library (\$1.5M), new dormitory (\$677K), Wellness Centre (\$925K), grounds upgrade (\$350K), laboratory renovations (\$350K), Poultry Research Unit (\$100K) and C & D building blocks' construction developments (\$1.15M).

President Hodder also led with great joy and passion, for an institution and a country that she has loved immensely. In her own words she was "elated with every opportunity to tell our story, a story of university building since the day The College first opened its doors in 1974"; and she often spoke of the importance of building human capital, ensuring that the country enjoys a broad pool of skilled and educated men and women.

Hodder has explained, "Through the provision of a high quality accessible university education, the nation creates opportunities for individuals to improve their personal standard of living and their capacity to support national development ... When nations choose to invest in higher education, they increase the pool of highly qualified human resources that can fill existing labour market needs. Having a pool of highly skilled human resources also creates new job opportunities and new avenues for economic development."

President Hodder also shared The College's story of university building in fora abroad. In June of last year she presented at the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Accountability, Accreditation and Quality Assurance; and in July addressed the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education in Paris, France. She presented on Higher Education and Social Responsibility.

The College is very fortunate for having had the leadership of President Hodder. Leadership that has been student focussed and ultimately purposed in nation building.

Before joining The College of The Bahamas, Hodder served as Vice Principal of McGill University [Montréal, Québec, Canada]; Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Bishop's University [Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada] and held various senior administrative posts including Assistant Deputy Minister in Québec's Ministry of Education. She holds master and baccalaureate degrees from McGill University and in 2007 received an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law degree from Bishop's University. President Hodder is a member of the Board of the International Association of Universities and since returning to The Bahamas has sat on the Board of Directors of: The National Art Gallery of The Bahamas; The Clifton Heritage Authority, which retains responsibility for the Clifton National Park; and The Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Corporation. In 2002 she received a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, a special one-time honour, in recognition of her exemplary service to her community.

Prime Minister Ingraham in his June 10<sup>th</sup> remarks on the floor of The House of Assembly, paid tribute to President Hodder:

“President Hodder has contributed immensely to the growth and development of the College. Her name will long be associated with the College and with its important role in the development of our country.

“I have no doubt that the legacy of President Hodder will be her untiring efforts in preparing that institution for its eventual transition to University status. Without a doubt her accomplishments at the College will stand and future generations will recall her achievement and our nation will be better for the time, though all too short, spent by her at the College.”

President Hodder has led with courage, vision and understanding of the things needed to build an institution of the highest academic standards and an enriching student life experience, with a larger community and national purpose.

Her focus is best explained in remarks she made to a professional group last November. “There is simply no other investment that can do more for the future of The Bahamas than an investment in its people. For years, The Bahamas has “outsourced” higher education, accepting that many of its most talented citizens will leave the country to complete university studies, creating the very real risk that too many will not return. By providing high quality academic degrees here at home, degrees that are closely tied to the

needs of this country, we can help ensure that The Bahamas enjoys the gifts of its most talented young – and not so young - people. We also keep Bahamian dollars at home and The College itself becomes an important source of economic activity.”

She concluded, “We see The College as a place where big dreams come true, and we will continue to work to be that place. Our dream is our mission, building one step at a time a university that will support and drive national development.”

The College of the Bahamas and its external community of alumni and friends extend profound appreciation to President Janyne Hodder for her dedicated and inspired leadership.

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