

Candidacy of Shermaine Barrett, PhD

I have been working in the field of education for over 30 years with 22 of those years being in the field of adult education. My experience spans both formal and non-formal contexts in various capacities. I am currently a professor of Adult Education and Workforce Development at University of Technology, Jamaica. I hold an earned doctorate in Work and Human Resource Education from the University of Minnesota, USA. and a Master of Arts in Adult Education, from Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada. I have been the President of the Jamaican Council for Adult Education (JACAE) in Jamaica since 2009. My research interests and scholarly work include adult teaching and learning, online teaching, workforce learning, sociological dimensions of education, and teacher professional development among others.

I have just completed one term as Vice President (Caribbean) of the International Council for Adult Education. During my term as VP for the Caribbean I have engaged the Region by facilitating various activities including: A symposium on The UNESCO Rethinking Education Document (A full report was produced); public discussions on various topics e.g. Adult Education Searching for Identity Within the Caribbean; a panel discussion on the theme “Free-dumb”: 180 Years of Searching for Inclusiveness and Equity in Adult Education; a study of youth and adult learning policies and practices in the Region since 2009; a technical study on the state of the art of lifelong learning in the Caribbean Region; a study on measuring the impact of adult education policies. Additionally, I have also participated in a number of symposiums, seminars, conferences internationally where I have strongly represented the voice and perspectives of the Caribbean.

I am convinced that there still exists the need for greater activation as it relates to youth and adult education within the Caribbean and internationally. There is still the need to promote learning and education from a human rights perspective; facilitate linkages between and among organizations worldwide to promote learning and adult education for adults and young people. I believe that the intergovernmental and non-governmental and civil society needs to be engaged to advance the cause of adult learning and education particularly as national seek to achieve the sustainable development goal. Against this background I strongly believe that a body such as the

International Council for Adult Education has a critical role to play in ensuring that the cause of youth and adult learning is not marginalized to the detriment of our societies. It is for this reason that I would love the opportunity to serve a second term as VP for the Caribbean so that I can continue to contribute to the critical engagements and to ensure that the voice and perspective of the Region is represented and heard.