

## **ON THE JLFU-NT AND THE U-TECH PARTNERSHIP**

The Normalization Technology Department at the JLF University focuses on the power of globalization to improve business activity in our societies. Thus, the NT-JLFU aims to work together with U-Tech to provide local business and professional organizations that have a direct impact on the economies of Southeast Caribbean countries the trade advantages comparable to what is available to the advanced metropolitan centers. Also, we aspire to address a critical strategic initiative for the national academic partners we seek that is mutually beneficial.

JLF University is in the process of significant campus-wide strategic/business planning activities intended to deepen the process of transforming many of our programs to keep pace with 21<sup>st</sup> century client needs and expectations, while at the same time gain program delivery efficiencies. At the same time, we are seeking to work more deeply and systemically with higher education institutions, to increase opportunities for graduate students to gain professional experience in a deeper and broader manner, including the delivery of direct services to clients.

Accordingly, JLF University seeks the collaboration of the U-Tech in a strategic partnership to assess businesses, individuals, and professional organizations needs to normalize and to examine the business case for establishing a Center for Normalization that engages a wide range of regionally-based graduate students in a wide variety of program designed to deliver advising/counseling services related to quality engineering and ISO 9000: 2008 compliance and audits on the respective campuses, as appropriate.

JLFU-NT addresses the problems of economic disparity, inadequate quality and problem solving education, through its technology training programs. The success of JLFU-NT centers on leveraging of public and private sector partnerships. We believe this will increase opportunities for graduate students to gain professional and clinical experience and provide JLFU-NT and U-Tech with their talent, knowledge and expertise in a more in-depth and systemic manner, including the delivery of direct services to clients.

Given our desire to continue broadening and deepening our service provision to clients in order to meet our mission, and recognizing the generally concomitant constraints on material resources and readily available funds to establish new programming, it seems fitting that we might be able to design a program that both benefits the two institutions (JLFU-NT and U-Tech), as well as the students who would gain from engaging in practical experiences on our campuses. In summation, we are seeking to pursue a win-win scenario with the partnership and the assistance of U-Tech to do so.

JLFU-NT's Current Challenges and Goals for 2009:

- Selecting a new, permanent Academic Dean and professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology to take the institution into its future
- Financial sustainability – continuing to refine JLF-NT's financial sustainability model
- Continuing the process of design and implementation of transformational training and educational initiatives (refreshing current programming to ensure relevance and currency, to meet client and employer needs)