

2nd Annual Public Forum

The National Women's Commission in partnership with UWI Open Campus-Belize present the 2nd Annual Public Forum for Women's Month. On the theme: **Gender and Achievement in Higher Education (examines the issue of male and female educational performance)**

Guest speaker for the forum is Dr. Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal, St. Augustine Campus, UWI, Trinidad, Author, Gender Specialist, Researcher and Professor.

Meet the Deputy Principal

Rhoda Reddock is a Professor of Gender and Development, who was previously the Head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies. She is currently the Deputy Principal at St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad, a position she has held since August 2008. She holds a BSc Social Administration (UWI St. Augustine and Mona, 1975); a Masters of Development Studies (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, 1980) and a Doctorate, Social Sciences (Applied Sociology) from the University of Amsterdam (1984).

Her academic career began as Lecturer at Cipriani Labour College from 1976 to 1978 and Associate Lecturer at the Institute of Social Studies, from 1979 to 1982. Her UWI career began as a Research Fellow, Institute for Social and Economic Research, UWI St. Augustine Campus in 1985, and then a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology in 1990.

Dr. Reddock was actively involved in the process leading up to the institutionalisation of gender studies at UWI and was the Head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies (now the Institute for Gender and Development Studies) at St. Augustine Campus from 1994 to 2008.

Her publications include seven books (two award-winning), three monographs, four special journal issues and over 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Dr. Reddock's awards include **the UWI Vice Chancellor's Award for All-Round Excellence in Teaching and Administration, Research and Public Service in 2001, the Seventh CARICOM Triennial Award for Women in 2002 and the US Department of State International Women of Courage Award 2008.**

The "*International Women of Courage Award*" recognises women who are working to promote political and economic opportunity, human dignity and human rights in their own nations and beyond. This annual prestigious award is granted to no more than one woman per country. A ceremony in Washington on March 10, 2008 recognised the work of all these impressive women, including eight special award winners. As the former U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice noted at that event, the work of such women plays an important role in creating a more democratic, peaceful and prosperous world.

In commenting on Dr. Reddock's work, one of her colleagues said, "Her commitment to document the history of Caribbean women's political struggles in a region where women have been part of the labor force since the beginning of plantation slavery some 400 years ago has been matched by her commitment to engage in organising a Caribbean-wide women's movement, one that encompasses both Latina Caribbean and African Caribbean Women."

Professor Rhoda Reddock's research has been interdisciplinary and reflects her commitment to multi-disciplinary collaboration with colleagues. A concern with social justice has been a core theme in her work. Her first academic publication, "Prison Education in Jamaica" published in 1976, was the result of a year-long undergraduate research exercise in two Jamaican prisons. Her focus then shifted to work, labour and women's social and political history as reflected in her master's and doctoral research. Since then her research output has revolved around the themes of gender, ethnicity and nationalism, masculinities, sexualities, women and social movements and environmental studies.