

SMP gives to DSC Nursing programme

By Rudy Joseph Jr

The Salybia Mission Project (SMP), a group of students affiliated with the Ross University School of Medicine, has made it easier for students with indigenous backgrounds to obtain training in the medical field at the Dominica State College (DSC). On Wednesday this week, the SMP presented the Faculty of Health Sciences with two scholarships totaling EC\$18,000 to go towards the nursing programme.

Mission Coordinator of SMP, John Hawley explained that when the SMP was formed in 2002, the idea was to help the indigenous people of Dominica who had no other means of obtaining medical care. "It formed around the opportunity to go up to Salybia and work at Dr Worrel Sanford's Clinic. When they first went up there, they saw the condition of the clinic and took it on as their own project," he said.

According to him, the contributions made to the nursing scholarship are from the students of the SMP, "The students are the ones who finance it. The students, through their fund raising, financed this scholarship and will continue

to finance it each year. That is the level of commitment in the students at Ross," Hawley stated.

He praised two of the more recognisable indigenous medical professionals for their hard work with regards to providing care in the Carib Territory. "The two people who really inspired us were Dr Sanford and Nurse Sylvia Warrington. The founding students found a real inspiration in Nurse Warrington and the vision of the nursing scholarship grew from that relationship," he said.

He explained that it is the intention of the SMP to make the donation an annual one, placing special interest on the medical profession here. "We have reached the point now where we feel we can give this scholarship annually, so that a student from the Carib Territory will be able to start each year in the nursing programme. We need to get Carib people into the health sciences and into the health care professions that will stand us in very good stead in the future to ensure quality health care in the Carib Territory," he added.

Also addressing the function was Parliamentary Representative of the Carib Territory, Kelly Graneau, who said that it is extremely important to bring the priorities of

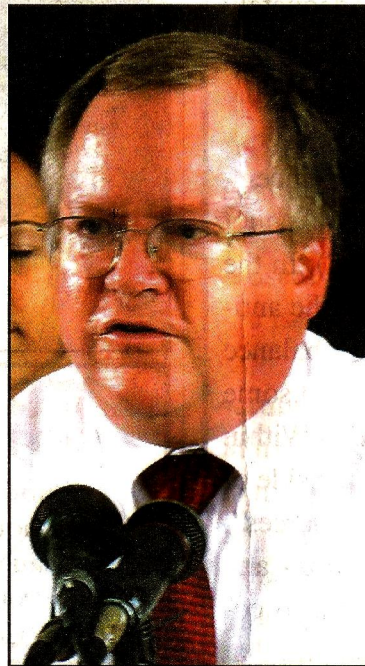
training professionals to the fore in order to have qualified people in the workplaces. "I am happy to know that we are not putting the cart before the horse. I'm glad we are not building the clinic and then training people to put in it to work. We are doing both, simultaneously," Graneau said.

He explained that although the refurbishment of the clinic at Salybia is not totally complete, what has been done so far is mainly the work of SMP. "I must say that we've accomplished about 60% of

that project and it is entirely due to the efforts of the students. We have a little way to go, but I'm sure that in the coming months, we should see the completion of that health clinic," he stated.

Graneau also reiterated the government's commitment to the

Carib students with regards to all levels of education. "The government does not pay lip service to the indigenous children. We have showed that we care. The enrolment of Carib students at the college has more than doubled," he said.



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