



Hyacinth Stoute

In 2010, at the age of forty-one, Hyacinth operated a thriving catering business. She was passionate about her chosen career and was eager to pursue an academic qualification in management which would have enhanced her overall skills and ability to manage her business. Unfortunately, her plans were brought to an abrupt halt. Hyacinth's plight started when she experienced challenges with partially losing her eye sight. Her condition was diagnosed as having detached retinas. Hyacinth underwent surgery, which the doctor believed would have allowed her to regain complete vision, but the procedure was unsuccessful.

Years later, despite physical challenges, Hyacinth remained optimistic and determined to pursue her career goals. In 2015, Hyacinth completed three (3) CXC's and added a fourth subject in 2019. As a mature student, she is currently enrolled in The University of the West Indies (UWI) as a first-year student pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Management.

Hyacinth highlighted some of the challenges she faces as a result of her disability. She has difficulty travelling alone and needs someone to accompany her when visiting unfamiliar places. With regards to managing classes at UWI, her primary challenge is recording and obtaining notes for classes. She does not have a laptop or the required devices to efficiently record notes during classes. Without the required technology of her own, Hyacinth is utilising the visual aid equipment in

the Kerry-ann Ifill Unit at UWI, photocopying chapters and in some cases, entire books.



Hyacinth also mentioned that she incurs transportation costs to travel from UWI to her home, due to the scheduled evening classes.

Hyacinth presented herself as an optimistic and resilient individual; not dwelling on her challenges but viewing them as learning opportunities. Hyacinth's words of encouragement to persons with a similar disability is to be confident, "do not be afraid to try or do things on your own".

Hyacinth will receive a plaque and the two finalists will each receive a monetary contribution towards their studies.

Caribbean Catalyst Inc. extends heartiest congratulations to Hyacinth and Caitlin and encourages them to continue to fulfil their academic aspirations.

Kregg's mother, Mrs. Linnell Nurse and Kerri-Ann Ifill continue to be active supporters of the efforts of Caribbean Catalyst Inc. as the team work to assist the differently abled community in progressive ways.