

Open and Distance Education: A Pathway to Development & Prosperity of Small States in a dispersed environment

**Global Distance Learning Congress – World
Corporate Universities Congress**

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FOCUS OF THE PRESENTATION

DISPERSED SIDS
IN THE
CARIBBEAN

The Educational Landscape:
Current realities and some
challenges affecting critical
outcomes

Provision of ODL (by UWI)
in the Caribbean – a
Developmental perspective

The potential of ODL for
further development of
SIDS.



Dispersed Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean

The Caribbean



UWI – CAMPUSES: CAVE HILL; MONA; ST. AUGUSTINE & OPEN CAMPUS



CAVE HILL



MONA



ST AUGUSTINE

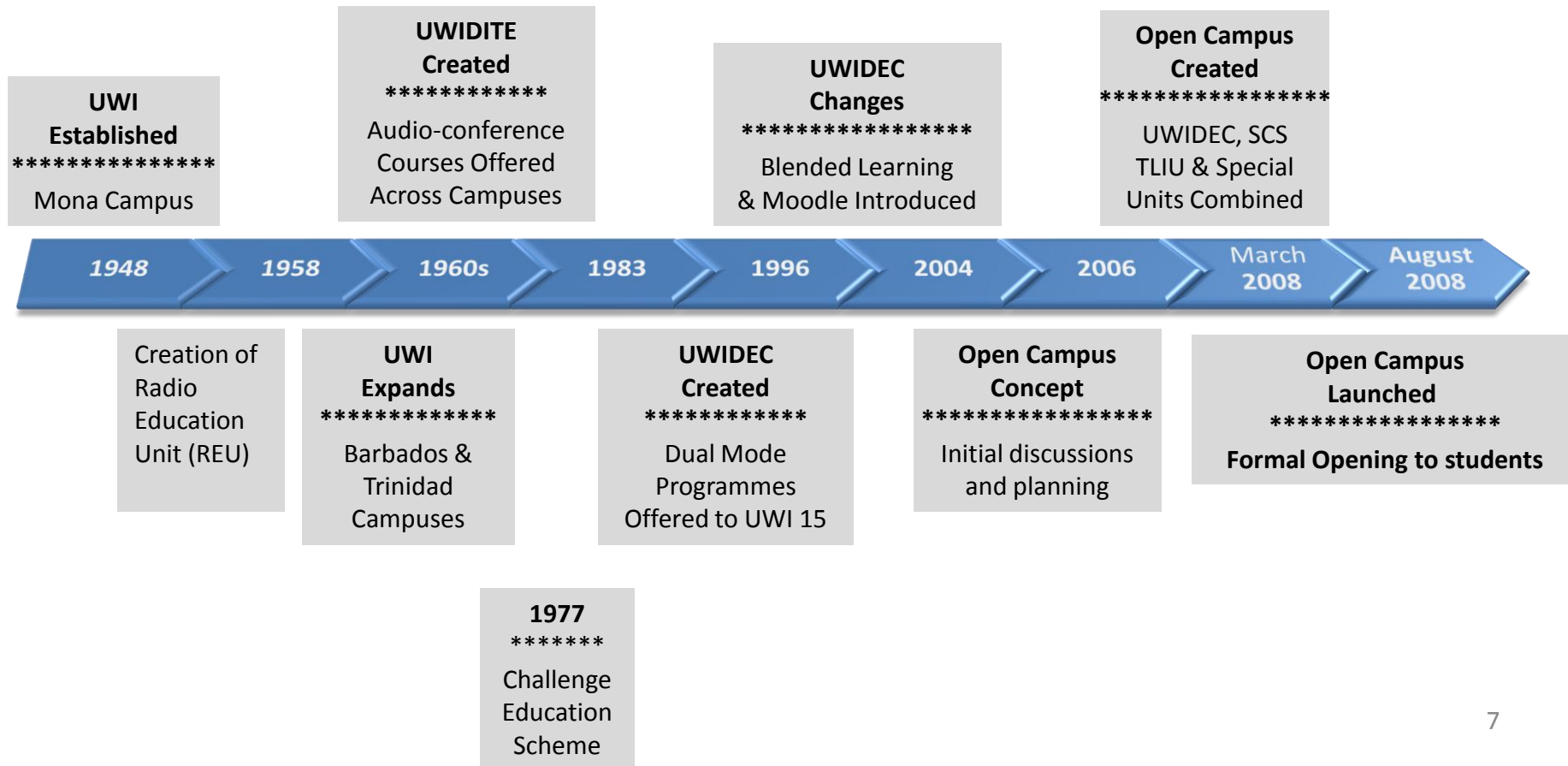


OPEN CAMPUS

Open Campus – Jurisdiction and Reach – 44 Locations in 16 Countries



UWI Distance Education Timeline



UWI Strategic Plan 2007-2012: Aim (#4)



To create an Open Campus to enable the University to expand the scope, enhance the appeal and improve the efficiency of its service to the individuals, communities and countries which it serves (p.31)



The Single Virtual University Space

The Single Virtual University Space (SVUS) is an initiative ... designed to use technology to integrate the collective strengths and resources of the four UWI campuses, to achieve greater efficiencies and to enhance its service to the under-served communities in the region.



The SVUS is a seamless environment that will enable students located anywhere in the region to access the best teaching/learning resources from any of the four campuses of the UWI



(UWI Single Virtual University Space Project: ProCare Progress Report (2) Executive Summary, August 4, 2010, p.4)

SVUS Potential

...If successfully implemented as a complement to the reform introduced by creation of the Open Campus, it may well also become the missing link that ensures a strong buy-in for the optimization of the transformed Open Campus potential at UWI and the region.



The Single Virtual University Space has the potential to alleviate the competition between the residential campuses amongst themselves and with the Open Campus

The Educational Landscape: Current Realities and Some Challenges affecting Outcomes



Responses to economic crisis

Britain - threatened a cut close to £2.5bn

France -“announced an investment of €11bn for higher education”

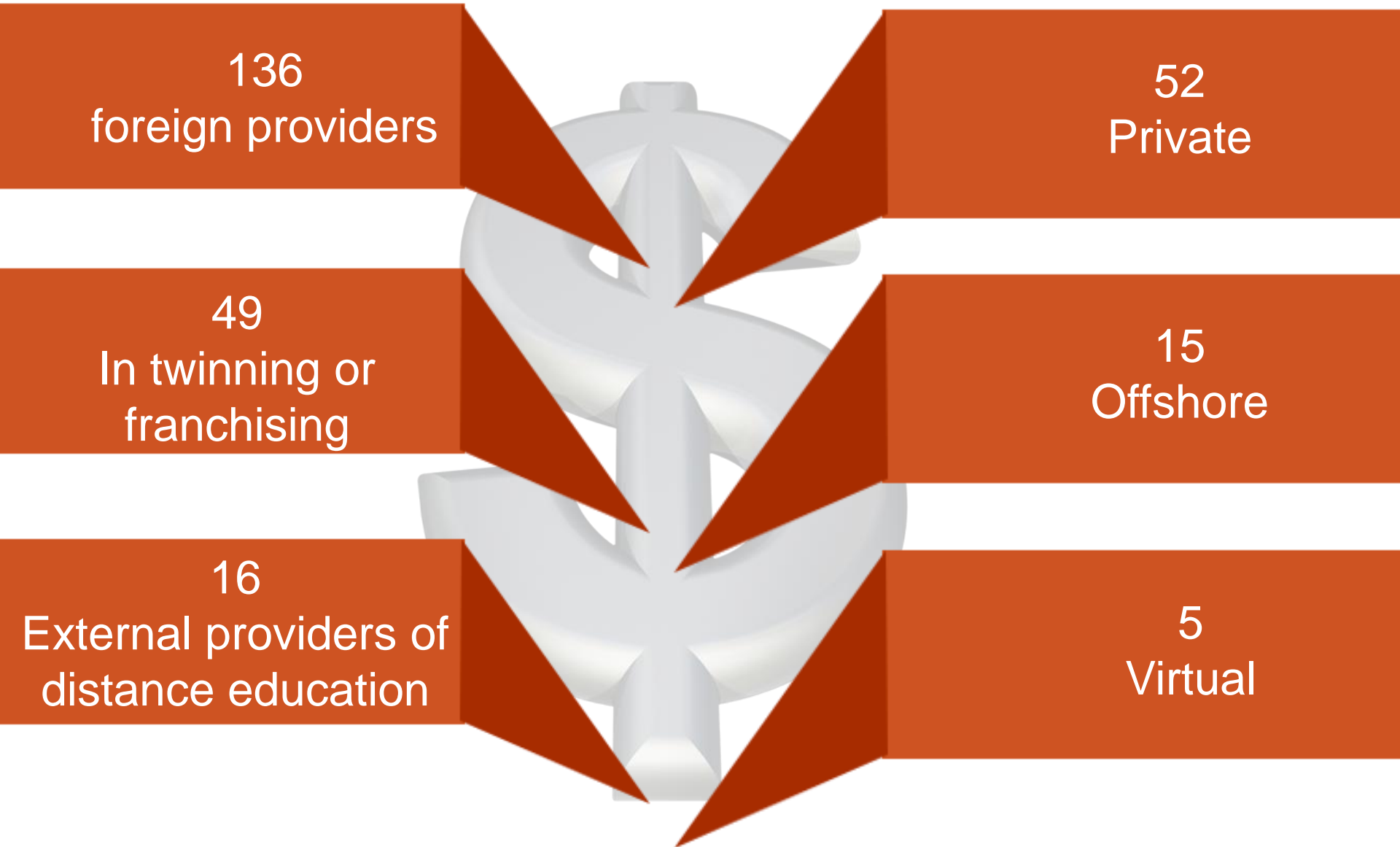
Germany -“pumped a total of €18bn into promoting world-class research alongside university education.”

USA - President Obama increased the sum for science federal spending by \$21bn.

The Caribbean – large cuts to UWI budget

(Arthur, Michael and Wendy Platt. *Universities face meltdown – and all of Britain will suffer*.guardian.co.uk, Monday 11th January 2010 2030 GMT)

Foreign Providers of Higher Education across the Caribbean

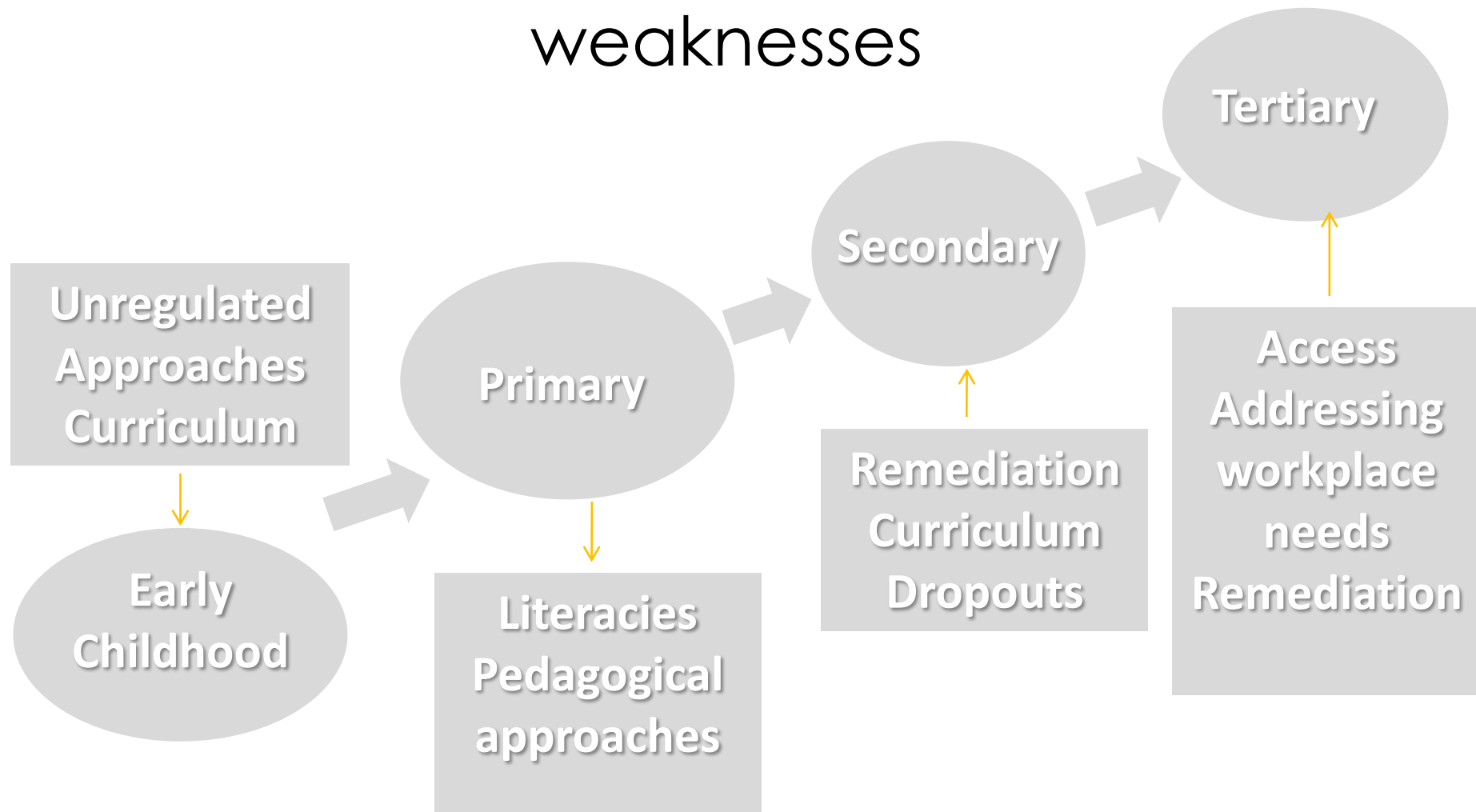


Opportunities & Challenges – Foreign Education Providers

Opportunities	Challenges
Increased supply of education	Affordability of tuition for locals
Greater access for students	Concern about quality of provision
Support for the knowledge economy	Inequality of access leading to a two-tier system
Development of joint degrees	Homogenization of the culture
Fusion / Hybridization of cultures	Weakening of the state in establishing national policy objectives
Growing comparability of qualifications	Decline in some liberal arts and pure science disciplines
Increasing role for market-based approach	
Economic benefits for education providers	
Diversification and generation of new academic environments	

The educational landscape

A linked system **marred** by gaps and other weaknesses



Disconnect between education and employment

“The education system in the OECS is not adequately preparing young people for the new skilled jobs. School leavers – understood to be all pupils, including those that graduate successfully and those that leave school before completing a degree – often do not possess the skills required for the service jobs in the new global economy (p.13).”

(Skill Challenges in the Caribbean: Phase I Report – School and Work. World Bank Human Development Sector. 2007.

Recommendations of WB Report

Assess students' learning
against international
standards

Nurture life skills at all levels:
use cooperative learning and
participatory methods.

Use principle – Learning to
Learn – to fashion new
teaching methods and
programmes for developing
critical thinking.

Colleges partner with “outside
institutions e.g. CKLN, UWI and
other offshore institutions for ”
higher quality and
internationalising curricula”

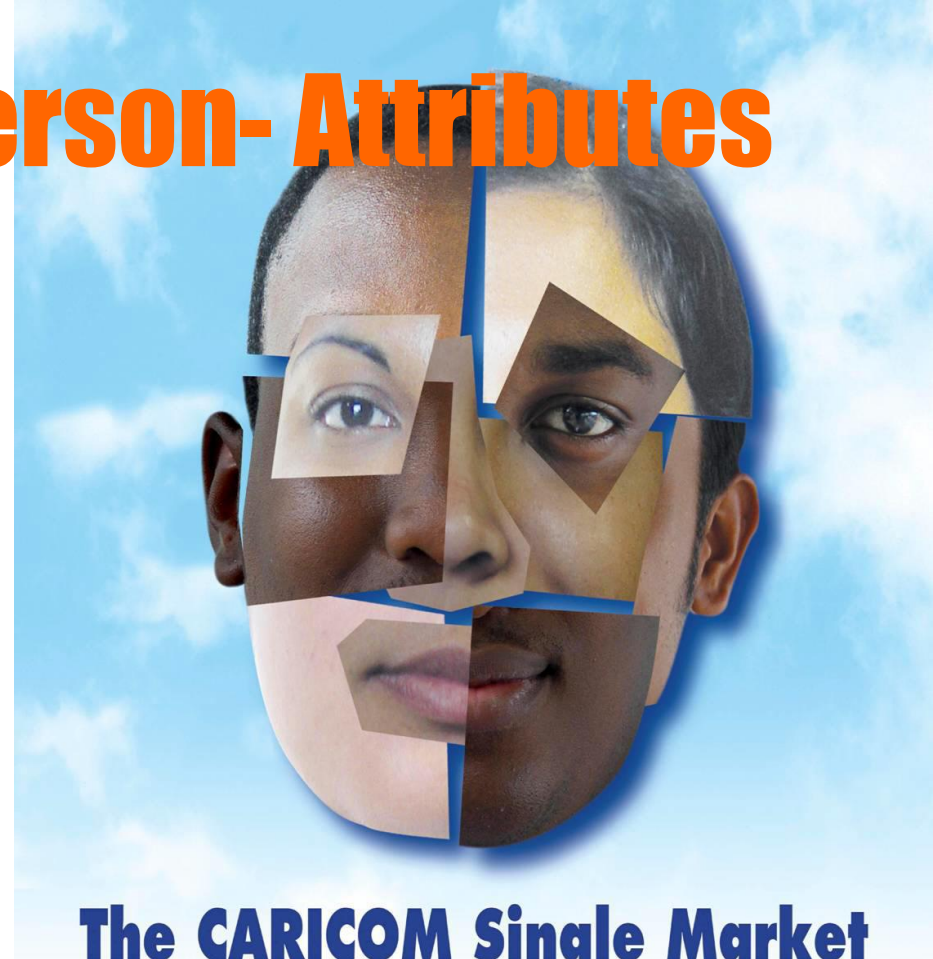
EFFECTS OF MIGRATION ON THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Migration within the sub-region remains one of the highest in the world, with the Eastern Caribbean exporting the largest proportion of its constituent population in percentage terms globally

(Situation Analysis of Children and their Families in the Eastern Caribbean. UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean; (2011:3).

CARICOM Ideal person- Attributes

- ✓ Loves life
- ✓ Emotionally intelligent
- ✓ Environmentally sensitive
- ✓ Democratically engaged
- ✓ Culturally grounded
- ✓ Historically conscious
- ✓ Has multiple literacies
- ✓ Respectful of gender and diversity
- ✓ Entrepreneurially capable



The CARICOM Single Market and Economy

14 million people in one economic space enjoying the right to:

- Provide Services
- Sell their Goods
- Move Freely
- Invest their Capital
- Establish Businesses
- Access Resources



(Slide graphic used with permission)

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of interlocking concrete pavers. These pavers are light gray and have a rectangular shape with four square indentations on their top surface, arranged in a 2x2 grid. They are laid out in a staggered pattern, creating a textured, geometric background.

The Potential of ODL for the further development of Small Island Developing States

Students' critique of system

Failure of the education system to provide a learning environment that is stimulating and encourages learning.

(CARICOM 2010 Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development)

Lack of enthusiasm from teachers who appeared to be often stressed and unable to deal effectively with students.

(St. Lucia Focus Group – April 10)

Failure of the education system to adequately cater to the different abilities and aptitudes of students.

(CARICOM 2010 Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development – p.61)

Powerful Use of ICT Tools

Use of
stimulations

Online videos
with possibility
for discussion

Interactive
learning

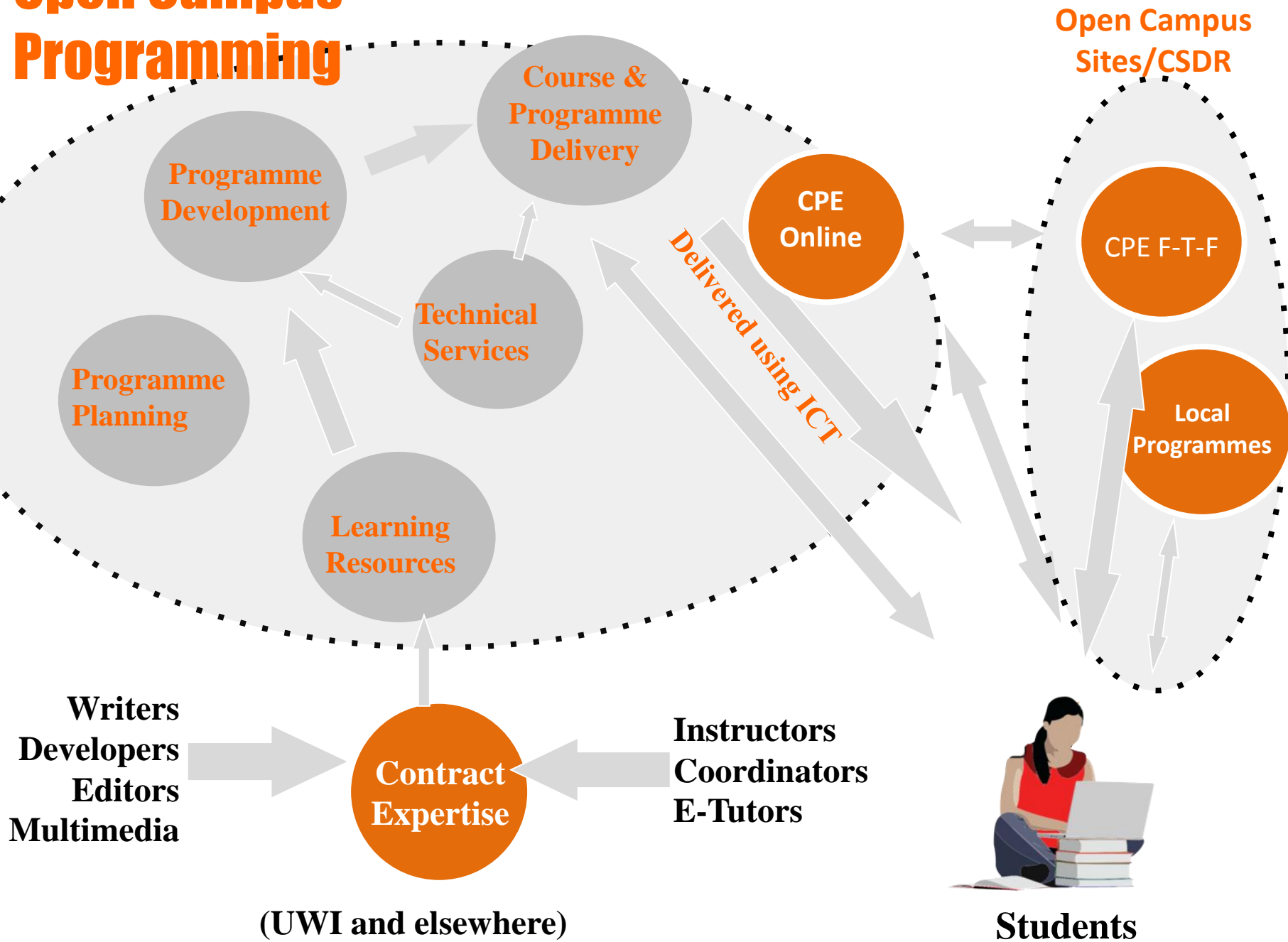
Coaching
by staff

Animations of hard-
to-see processes

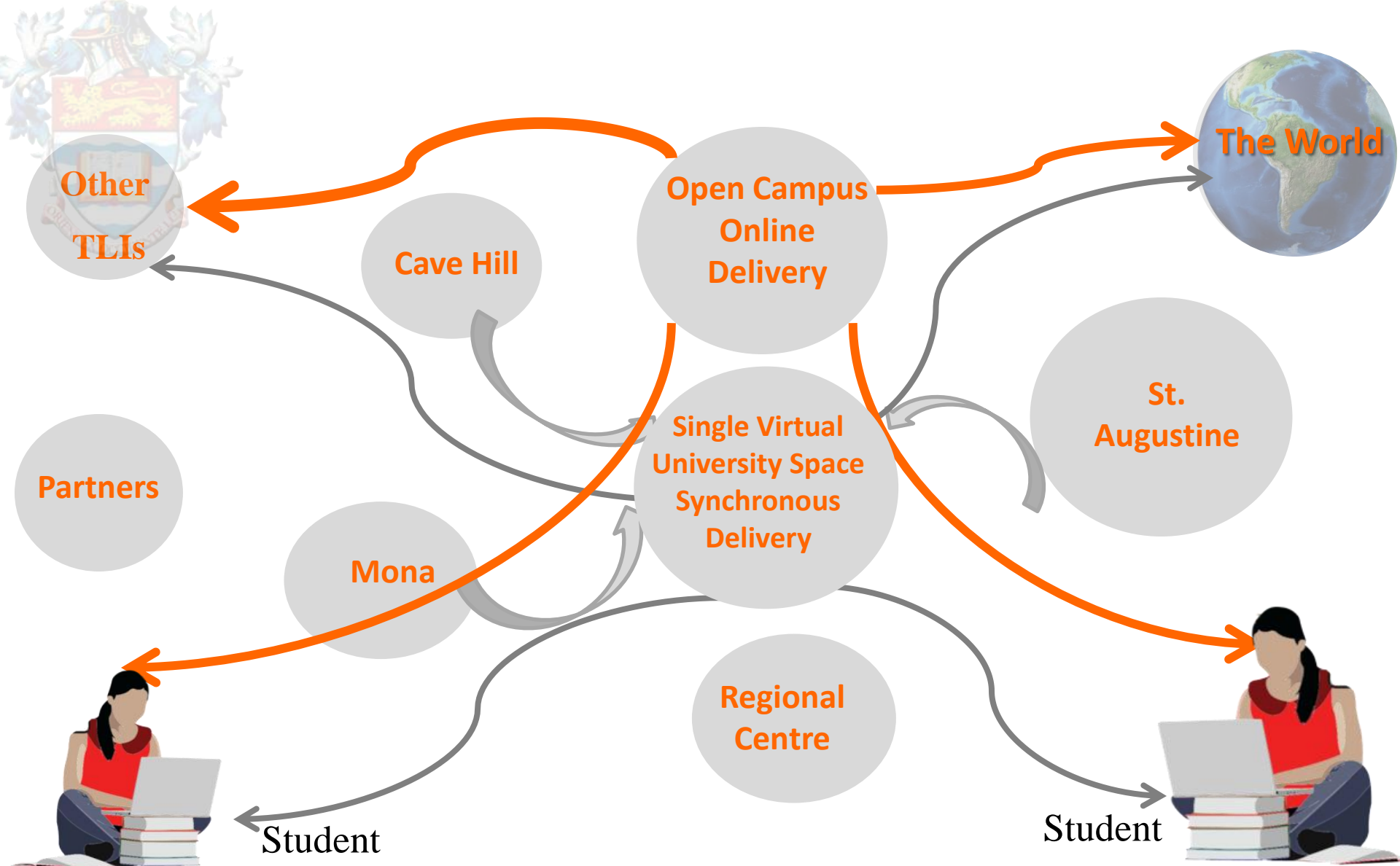
Teleconferences



Open Campus Programming



Flexible pathways to higher education





QUESTIONS