

Dr. Cynthia E. Aird

Ph.D. Biodata



Woman of Substance Eagle Award

I have the pleasure and honour to introduce the first Woman of Substance Eagle award. This award that we plan to make an annual event, was organized by a collective of senior female faculty and staff here at GU. The award plans to recognize a woman who is strong, is a positive influence, displays unwavering passion and commitment to issues affecting the country and is a positive influence in the field of education, is working towards the development of Belize, is community and service driven, is making contributions to develop, encourage and strengthen the participation of women and girls. Overall, a woman that has made significant contributions that has led to inspiring change. The recipient for this year's award is a wife, a mother, grandmother, a sister, a friend, a colleague, a mover and shaker and has strong faith in God. She is a dynamic woman of substance. Her career in education in Belize spans over 40 years with the last 35 being in higher education

Dr. Cynthia Eve Aird is currently the Provost of Galen University, a post she has held since December 1, 2014. She first joined Galen in 2003 as an Assistant Professor. She left Galen in 2008 to start the post of President and Principal at Sacred Heart College, in San Ignacio.

She earned her M.Ed. from the University of New Brunswick as a Canadian Commonwealth Scholar, and Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction and Administration with a minor in Higher Education from Boston College in 2001 where she was a Fulbright Scholar.

Dr. Aird has enjoyed a 40-year career in education, with 35 years working in higher education in Belize, specifically in English as a Second Language, Teacher Education at the former BELCAST, the former University College of Belize, the University of Belize, Sacred Heart Junior College, and Galen University. As such, she has served as Chair on several educational organizations, namely Association of Tertiary Level

Institutions in Belize (ATLIB), Consortium of Belize Education for Cooperation (COBEC) and Belize Board of Teacher Education (BBTE) Dr. Aird is keenly interested in higher education in developing countries, and, as a member of ATLIB, advocates strongly to develop a National Higher Education Policy that addresses sustainable financing and national development priorities, as well as the establishment of the National Accreditation Council. She has presented on these themes locally and internationally.

As Provost of Galen University, Dr. Aird has supported national efforts to end Gender Based Violence. Under her leadership, the University has actively participated in the annual 16 Days of Activism to End Domestic Violence and Women's Month in March. She has committed to introducing a certificate program in Gender Studies at the University.

Dr. Aird, exemplifies what it means to be a successful, dynamic empowered, and strong woman. She might consider herself as ordinary, as just Nana recognized by only her grandkids and those closest to her. However, she has been there to encourage, support, influence, serve, and assist whether it is a fundraiser for a good cause or discussion on improvement of an academic program. I salute Dr. Aird for her leadership, dedication to education, commitment to student success and passion and commitment to issues affecting the lives of women and girls.