

Good afternoon.

Today I am announcing that the Government, in line with our commitment to provide Bermudians the skills to become gainfully employed in the technology jobs of the future, is launching Phase One of the Technology Education Programme. This programme will provide sponsored training and education opportunities for Bermudians in emerging technology fields in and related to Fintech.

The growing number of technology related businesses incorporating and/or planning to domicile in Bermuda will increase the demand for skilled labour. In preparation for this, the FinTech Business Unit has laid out an education and training plan that enables interested Bermudians to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to seek employment with companies that are establishing a presence in Bermuda.

The education programmes have been designed to meet the needs of all sectors of the community, irrespective of an individual's experience level.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

1. enable all sectors of the community from primary school to workforce and beyond to become knowledgeable about opportunities in the technology industry;
2. enable all interested persons to acquire training and/or certifications in order to be prepared and ready to assume specialised positions in the local FinTech industry or related technology fields;
3. enable Business Executives and Managers (as well as Government employees) to learn how emerging technologies can support their business growth and efficiency;

4. enable local educators to become trainers through our train-the-trainer program; and to
5. support the work of other government entities in affording opportunities for work in traditional positions within that support FinTech companies.

It is expected that upon completion of the necessary training, individuals will gain knowledge about FinTech, and many will receive specialized certifications. These certifications which include cybersecurity, cryptology, smart contracts and regulatory compliance, will afford participants with not only the skills necessary to seek employment with the FinTech companies; but also the knowledge to launch their own technology ventures.

To date, twenty-five Bermudians have expressed a desire to work in Fintech, some of them are joining us today. They have shown a genuine interest in the industry and are excited about the opportunity to get training in this first Phase of the Fintech Business Unit's Training & Education programme. We look forward to welcoming and helping others to learn, grow and develop.

Next week Wednesday, February 6th, at 12:30 pm or 5:30pm, Dr. Gina Tucker will be hosting a one hour Briefing Session which will be open to all Bermudians, regardless of age, who wish to learn more about the training opportunities that will be made available.

To register to attend these sessions, please go to the Bermuda job board at www.bermudajobboard.bm – and click on “FinTech Education”.

I encourage anyone with an interest in working in this industry to register and attend the briefing sessions next week. We want to make sure that Bermudians participate in this industry and we are going to provide the training to enable this to happen.

Thank you.