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NEWS RELEASE

BBC INVESTING IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY THROUGH INTERNSHIP

THE BARBADOS BOTTLING COMPANY LIMITED (BBC) is assisting in sustaining the future of the manufacturing industry and investing in Barbadians through its internship programme.

This, from **Gracelyn Barker**, Human Resources Officer, who commented on the value of the programme in a recent interview.

The beverage manufacturer is currently hosting one student each from the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic in their Asset Care Department in an effort to provide them with valuable work experience.

The programme which has been running for more than five years, hosts students from the island's tertiary institutions (UWI, BCC and SJPP), fully immersing them in the plant and manufacturing culture primarily in the disciplines of Asset Care and Quality Assurance.

Ms. Barker went on to note that past interns had gone on to be absorbed in permanent posts not only at BBC but within the BHL Group, which is made up of four subsidiaries including PINEHILL Dairy, Banks (Barbados) Breweries Limited and B&B Distribution.

"This is an opportunity for us to aid young students who want to see what manufacturing is all about. It is also a good opportunity for us to see what is in the market and what skill sets exist."

She went on to stress that as an organisation certified by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) – the world's largest developer of voluntary International Standards, it is important that BBC invests in and retains the talent that exists in the country.

"Finding the right talent is not always easy especially as it relates to technical roles. However, at BBC, we are cognizant that when we do find the right talent that we keep that talent and align the talent with the industry and by extension world standards."

Ramon Harper and **John St. Rose** are students of the Mechanical Engineering programme and are both stationed at the plant's Newton location for five weeks and three months respectively. During their stint, they have been involved in several tasks including overall preventative maintenance of the machines.

“The internship has given me a chance to really see the relevance of the course I am pursuing and has given me an idea of what I am going to do in the workforce. Essentially, I like to work with my hands and this has enabled me to do that,” Ramon said.

John, who applied to the BBC directly, described his experience as “quite remarkable”.

“I have thus far learnt the importance of a Cleaning In Place procedure, the maintenance of and reassembly of water pumps, and individual and team safety practices, to name a few. The experience is still ongoing and I enjoy committing myself to reporting daily as new learning situations arise.”

Sardesai Gangaram, Asset Care Manager, BBC noted that the students’ performance continues to be exemplary and they adapted quickly to their environments. He also stressed the importance of BBC giving back to its community and taking advantage of such opportunities to express its corporate social responsibility.

The 70 year old Barbados Bottling Co. Ltd is a subsidiary of the BHL Group and is the local franchise holder for international brands Coca-Cola and Sprite as well as the producer of local offerings Frutee and CLEAR.



CAP. 1(from left): John St. Rose and Ramon Harper performing preventative maintenance to a Cleaning in Place (CIP) pump.

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