Meeting the Metaverse: Rethinking the Caribbean Academic Institution

Traversing the Metaverse – A Caribbean Perspective
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FLOWS

from the Metaverse to the Metaverse

Caribbean Academic Institution

Extension of existing programmes

**Knowledge**
- **Creators**
  - Artists, modelers, dialog writers, mocap, character designers, composers, videographers, fashion designers

**Skills**
- **Performers**
  - Actors, musicians, guides, streamers, vloggers, teachers, leaders, coaches

**Attitudes**
- **Bridgers**
  - Cartographers, historians, digital twin implementors, naturalists, data providers, analysts, public health & safety experts, spatial mappers

**Products**
- **Community**
  - Evangelists, marketers, customer support, curators, influencers, moderators, advisors

- **Builders**
  - Game designers, worldbuilders, producers, impresarios, curriculum designers, storytellers, generative organizers

- **Participants**
  - Play-to-earn, DAOists, customizers, guild leaders, traders, speculators, modders
The Seven Layers of the Metaverse


Extension of existing programmes
from the Metaverse

AR & VR-Assisted Learning
EON-XR

e.g. skills & content development

Scan

with smartphone for 360° environment generation

Photograph

Artefacts to highlight

Add Content

Panels with annotations using Google Lens; PDFs, assessments, quizzes, location- & identity-based challenges etc.

Demonstrate

Walk & talk, pointing out artefacts, optionally making sequence-based assessments

1. UWI

300 educators trained | ≥ 30 persons to be trained / month, 2022 | A technician course in Instrumentation + 3 other courses to incorporate XR
students who use these approaches tend to earn higher grades and retain, integrate, and transfer information at higher rates” (Kuh, 2008)

High-impact Educational practices

- First-Year Experiences
- Common Intellectual Experiences
- Learning Communities
- Diversity/Global Learning
- Writing-Intensive Courses
- ePortfolios
- Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
- Internships
- Undergraduate Research
- Collaborative Assignments & Projects
- Capstone Courses & Projects

Times Higher Education

The University of the West Indies

Caribbean's #1 | Latin America's Top 2% | World's Top 4%
Higher Ed Reality Check

**Academic**

**Enablers**

- **2030 SDGs**
  - Equal access for all to affordable quality ... tertiary education  

- **Demand**
  - Lifelong & online/blended learning, credentials unbundling, career orientation, specialization & consolidation  
    Choudaha & Van Rest (2018)

- **Resourcing**
  - Declines in traditional resourcing e.g. UWI subventions  
    UWI (2021)

- **Opportunity**
  - Global higher ed enrolment: 99.4 to ≥ 414 m  

**Business**
360° Rethink

Academic
Differentiation?
Contemporary fundamentals?
Plagiarism
Assessment
Who will be left behind? ... etc. etc.

Enablers
Digital transformation
Enterprise architecture, platforms and applications
Open education resources
Digital & IP rights
Electronic transfer of records
The whole student experience Identify management ... etc. etc.

Business
Differentiation?
Revenue generation ... etc. etc.
Fresh models: process, procurement, HR, market, FORMAL & INFORMAL PARTNERSHIPS
Dumplins
"Janey, you see nobody pass here?"
"No, me friend."
"Sarah, you see nobody pass here?"
"No, me friend."
"Well, one of me dumplings gone."
"Don't tell me so!"
"Of me dumplings gone."
"Janey, you see nobody pass here?"
"No, me friend."
"Sarah, you see nobody pass here?"
"No, my friend."
"Well, two of me dumplings gone."
"Don't tell me so!
"Two of me dumplings gone."

"It is not by accident that the performing arts, which depend on dialogue and social interaction for their dynamic (and for collective plan and action), are the artistic cultural expressions which tend to carry greatest conviction among Caribbean people."
- Rex Nettleford
THANK YOU

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