

# **GLOBE ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



## **Commonwealth of The Bahamas**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Bahamas' Globe Program began in July 1997 when it was under the auspices of The Ministry of Education and Culture. However, due to an extended period of inactivity, in July 2005, the responsibility of this organization was transferred to The Bahamas Department of Meteorology, under the leadership of Mr. Godfrey Burnside, who was assisted by Mr. Roger Demeritte, respectively.

This team began the development of the program in the Government schools and then subsequently expanded it into the Independent or Private school system.

The program began with Government schools namely: Sandilands Primary and S.C. McPherson Junior High School. The lone independent school initially was Queen's College Primary.

To date, many challenges continue to be experienced in both Public and Private schools, however, a much greater level of sustained success has been achieved by Queen's College Primary. Despite, the high level of success that was once experienced by this and other highly dedicated schools, teacher movement, attrition and retirement have severely crippled the once promising success of the program. Despite, the school's challenges, our departmental fiscal and personal

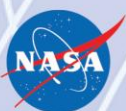


# THE GLOBE PROGRAM

resources have always been scarce and as a result, The Bahamas Globe Program has seen a tremendous setback during the last 2 years. The primary reason for the fiscal setback has been the concentration of the Department of Meteorology's expenditure towards our multi-million dollar radar network project, which has an expected completion date of March – May 2020. This has absorbed time and energy from key persons that would have been involved in the Globe Program. In light of this, The Globe Program will rebound, and much better days are projected ahead.

Having said this, a new level of excitement and an infusion of exhilarating energy is expected to be introduced to the program by a duo of young females who have already verbally committed to the program. It is anticipated that over the next several months the program will undergo a state of transformation and repositioning that will assist in aligning it with the **Globe Strategic Plan 2018-2023**. The new level of infectious young energy should serve to implement new ideas that should greatly enhance the program and make it the rival of the region like it once was.

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[www.globe.gov](http://www.globe.gov)

## EDUCATION

We have embarked on growing our school introduction of the GLOBE Program in our Private Schools and our only university—University of The Bahamas (UB)—along with another Technical training Institute, The Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI), located in North Andros, one of our more remote islands. Both UB and our Technical Training Institute have expressed an eager interest in welcoming the program.

We have engaged the Ministry of Education, and expect continued discussions with the Minister along with other key personnel and curriculum planners to make their team fully aware of the program's model and strategic goals for 2018 – 2023. It is hoped that this can assist in raising awareness of the program while highlighting its importance and the short and long term benefits that it can provide to not only students but the entire country.

The GLOBE Program expects to also continue to engage with other educational groups in efforts to raise awareness about the environment through workshops, and campaigns with both teachers and students. We are also encouraging our partners to set up workshops, camps and field trips for our students and teachers to enhance



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their knowledge about science, climate change and the importance of the environment—how to keep it clean, whether land, sea or air.

Of particular note is a new school, Bahamas Global Preparatory Academy, which is seeking to have a Friday solely dedicated to Globe activities. This is expected to be a model for others and hopefully with proper planning and execution it can be in the immediate future.

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## SCIENCE

The Program is seeking to network and engage one of the top science schools in the country, Mr. Burnside's Alma mater, St. John's College in spear heading science and research efforts. This school is synonymous with capturing top prizes in international competitions. This research is expected to be conducted under the guidance of persons from the University to ensure that the highest levels of scientific protocols are adhered to.

The expansion of GLOBE in the new schools will be done primarily in conjunction with teachers that are highly specialized and are seeking to employ students to engage in greater retrieval of data not only to share on the GLOBE data network but for further research that can be shared on a national level and ultimately to be able to present at the International Annual Student's Forum which is highly desired as a Strategic Goal.

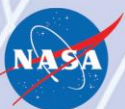
Finally, in the science arena, collaborative efforts with The University of The Bahamas, which is the country's only University is of paramount importance and is hoped to materialize and operate at appreciable levels beginning in the 2019 Fall semester. STEM professionals have been already targeted with a Marine Professor (Mrs. Jackie Chisolm-Lightbourne) earmarked as a key contributor to both



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research and training in the hydrosphere protocol based on her high level of expertise in this arena. She has already participated in the Lake Challenge during October 2018 and anxiously awaits to participate in future Globe projects.

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## TECHNOLOGY

We are encouraging our students and teachers to make use of the advancement in technology, and utilize the advantages that it can provide in improving their knowledge and awareness of the gadgets and software available through practice.

We will continue to make the Davis Instrument a top priority for the Atmospheric Protocol. This has proven to be reliable and efficient as well as user friendly that can easily allow the usage of apps, weather links and storage of data for future use and current exchange of data. Our main preference continues to be the Davis Instrument VantagePro2 model, as this allows the rapid and easy exchange of data via weather link with some of our partners both locally and internationally.

Technology from an educational standpoint has seen The Bahamas Government along with various stakeholders beginning to outfit Public schools with the necessary infrastructure for hard wired and Wi-Fi internet connection. To date, a total of 6 Public schools have been completed, with a rush to complete many more during this school summer break with a view to complete as many as possible before Spring of 2020. This initiative would afford all students and teachers to use smart phones, iPad and computers to research subject matter and google



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information related to subject. Moreover, this initiative can greatly enhance data collection and the uploading of this data in a timely manner and on a consistent basis.

Finally, Globe Bahamas is presently in the process of negotiating for 4 – 5 new weather stations to have them installed and the requisite teachers and students trained in the atmospheric protocol in Fall of 2019. This is expected to be a major milestone in the expansion and revitalization of our program.

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## COMMUNITY

The Bahamas Globe Program has been interlinked with many schools via their visit to The Bahamas Department of Meteorology's Forecast Office. Through this effort, schools have been introduced to the program verbally and have been encouraged to further engage via the Globe's website.

Beyond students, there have been seasoned citizen scientists, as well as other environmentalists that are engaged in the Globe Program and seek to support the program in any tangible means. Late last year, Mr. Burnside through a television program that he is featured as a weatherman did not forget to highlight the Globe program.

The research community through the University of The Bahamas, along with other civic and Non-Government Organizations continue to render support for the program and offer primarily technical assistance whenever the need arises.

It is hoped that a greater level of community involvement is achieved as the program expands its reach on a national, regional and international level much like the Junior Achievement Program has attained success via its business mentorship for students at all grade levels.



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An important aspect of community involvement is the engagement of the primary sponsor in the form of the local United States Embassy. This is a grave mistake that we in The Bahamas have been making for quite some time and it is anticipated that a greater relationship be established to assist from both a greater financial and logistical standpoint to strengthen the ties between the two countries as well as to foster a better working relationship for the program within this jurisdiction and abroad.

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## COMMUNICATION

The organization has been making strides in expanding its social media platform and hopes to engage one of the new younger volunteers to assist in the management of this platform to ensure that any news and new media is quickly uploaded to ensure full coverage and a higher level of visibility.

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## STAFF

The GLOBE Program in the Bahamas has no paid staff. All persons currently engaged in the facilitation of this program are volunteers with some affiliation to The Bahamas Department of Meteorology.

Mr. Godfrey Burnside has been actively overseeing the operations of this program single handedly until last year when he invited me onboard. Recently, several persons who have returned from training have verbally committed to joining the program and assisting with its development. One is a trained teacher, while the other works in the capacity of tutoring young persons. These two young ladies are expected to assist in the revitalization and the rejuvenation of the Bahamas' program. Other persons have expressed a genuine interest in assisting especially for laborious joint ventures that include but are not limited to establishing new atmospheric monitoring stations throughout the country.

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## APPENDIX

### References:

Bahamas Coat of Arms (cover page)

Available at:

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/portal/public/about%20the%20bahamas/national%20symbols//>

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