

# Country Focus: Trinidad and Tobago

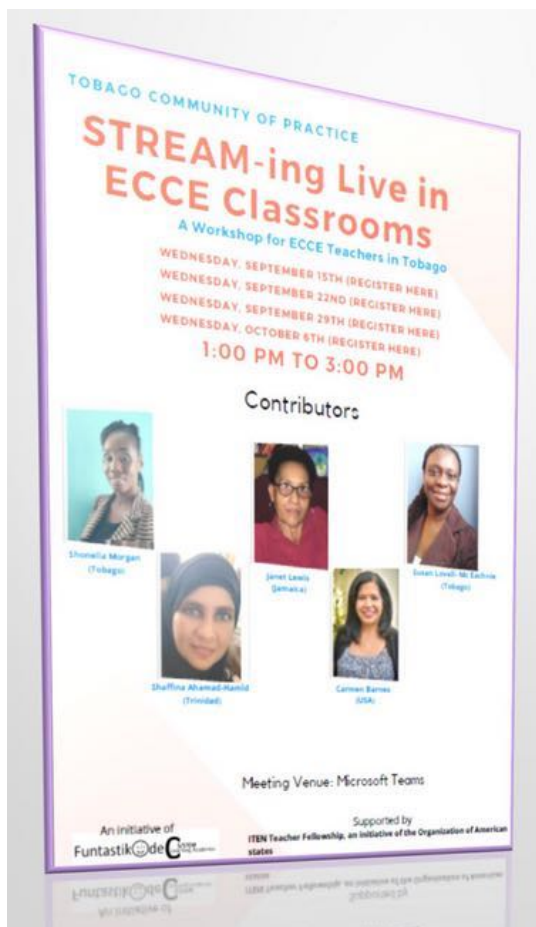
ITEN Teacher Leadership fund recipients, **Shonella Morgan** and **Susan Lovell**, have been collaborating through an organization, *Funtastikode*, a recipient of an ITEN Seed Grant, to bring STREAM education to the teachers of Tobago.

Across 2021, these two teachers have collaborated to both build of communities of practice and expose teachers to innovative teaching approaches and technology.

After learning about approaches to help early childhood teachers engage with STREAM through a series of virtual workshops with hands-on activities using simple materials, Shonella and Susan ran their own communities of practice along with ITEN Teacher Fellows **Carmen Barnes** (USA), **Janet Lewis** (Jamaica), and **Shaffina Ahamad-Hamid** (Tobago).

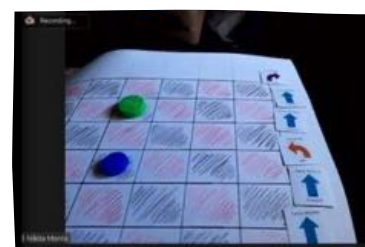
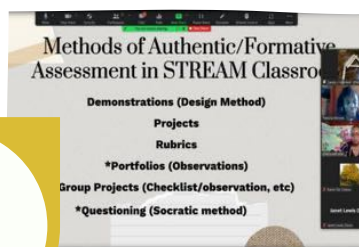
The workshops' aim was to introduce early childhood practitioners of STREAM and how they can be implemented in the curriculum by providing the teachers with practical examples and techniques for them to use and become successful in using STREAM. Goals of the workshop included the following:

- To provide relevant stakeholders with basic knowledge, materials, and resources to effectively plan, and implement STREAM related activities for their 3 - 5-year-olds.
- To increase their knowledge of STREAM education in early childhood education and its benefits
- To guide participants in integrating STREAM into their existing curriculum
- To provide participants with a collection of resources and research in STREAM for young children



The workshop was composed of four sessions:

- Session 1: What is ST@EAM and how do we use it in the ECCE classroom?
- Session 2: Practically integrating STREAM in the curriculum
- Session 3: Developing Critical Thinking Skills in Students with ST@EAM
- Session 4: Assessing STREAM in ECCE classrooms



35

teachers across Tobago participated in these workshops.

**TOBAGO COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

Presents a series of Professional Development Experiences for  
Primary School Principals  
Ecce Managers  
Teacher/Administrators  
ECCE Teachers  
Infants Year 1 and 2 Primary School Teachers  
in Tobago

**WORKSHOP THEME:  
'FROM ISOLATION TO INTEGRATION'**

**Dates:** November 3rd - 24th (Wednesdays)

**ALL MATERIALS FOR THESE WORKSHOPS  
WOULD BE PROVIDED TO EACH PARTICIPANT**

**Register Here**

**Certification and Expectations**

To receive certification for these series of workshops –

- Participants will be expected to attend and actively participate in ALL sessions.
- Participants must commit to implementing what was learned by using any of the activities shown in the workshops with your students.
- Demonstrate evidence of implementation by taking pictures or videos of your implementation and presenting same at the final workshop session. Send pictures or videos to Funtastikode/OAS.

Now, with the support of an ITEN Seed Grant, Shonella and Susan will **again implement another set of workshops for a community of practice, this time providing kits with materials to participating teachers**, and working through public school administration to ensure implementation in classroom practice.

Participating teachers will be asked to commit to providing **evidence of the use of the kits in their classroom** through photographic or video evidence. Shonella and Susan may also visit a subgroup of teachers to see them in action.



To further enrich access to technological resources in Tobago, Shonella has partnered with ITEN members from both Suriname and the USA to offer webinars.

Funtastikode in collaboration with John van der Zijden and Marcelo Caplan organise

**The 1st  
Teacher Leadership Conference:  
Technology Integration-A 21st Century Priority**

Thursday 21st October at 3:30 PM

**Topic: IT solving Skills - "First Aid" in Hardware**

Keynote Speaker

John van der Zijden B.Ed

IT technician  
Institute of Natural Resources and Engineering Studies



Thursday 21st October at 5:00 PM

**Topic: Designing a Home Studio for Virtual Teaching**

Keynote Speaker

Marcelo Caplan  
Associate Professor

Science and Mathematics Department - Columbia College Chicago



**100+**

**teachers** across the region took part in these live events.