ICT Initiatives and Innovation at UWI

- **UWI is one of only two universities around the world whose operations transcend the borders of multiple nation states.**

- **UWI's operations conducted in forty-five educational sites in sixteen countries place a premium on the use of information technology to enhance the effectiveness of its learning and administrative processes.**

Recent UWI ICT Initiatives

- **Learning Management System**
- **Development of Teaching and Learning Spaces**
- **Use of Web Based Synchronous Communications**
- **Development of Student Portals**
- **Integrated Information Services**
- **Administrative Support Systems**
- **Access to Research and Education Networks**
- **Single Virtual University Space Initiative**

Learning Management System

- **A learning management system is a software application that facilitates access to learning resources and content and therefore permits internet-based course delivery.**

- **All UWI campuses run the Moodle learning management system, which is an Open Source application. The UWI LMS is used to deliver fully on-line programmes as well as to augment traditional classroom teaching by providing a shared space for faculty and students to post materials and encourage communication and collaboration outside of regular class times.**

- **The LMS contains discussion forums for student-teach collaboration, calendar, real time chat tools, online quizz and exam functionality, blogs and drop-box features for assignment submission.**

Teaching and Learning Spaces

- **During the last two strategic planning periods, in particular, UWI has focused on enhancing the technological sophistication of its teaching and learning spaces.**

- **Across the University, classrooms have been upgraded with multimedia technological access. Many lecture theatres allow the use of digital information and in several programmes lectures are streamed over broadband for wide are learning.**

- **Currently, technologies under investigation, and pilot, include response and web-based polling that allows students to respond to interactive polling questions.**

Use of Web-Based Synchronous Communication

- **UWI uses standard synchronous applications such as Elluminate and BigblueButton to deliver online courses and provide real time communication for educational and administrative purposes.**

- **Web-conferencing increases interactivity not available on asynchronous tools.**

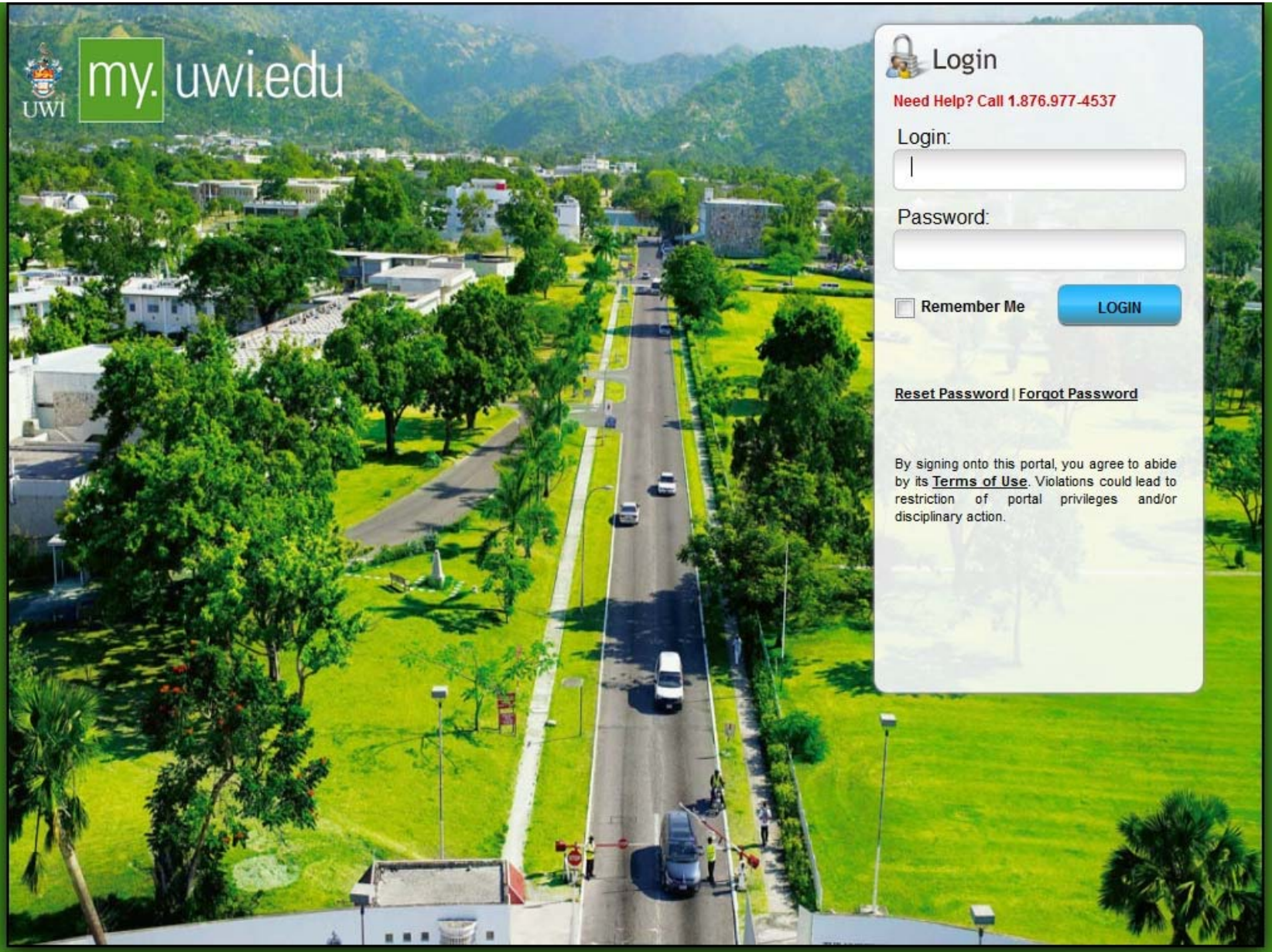
- **Elluminate is the preferred web-conferencing tool of UWI's Open Campus. Bigblue Button is currently used by UWI, Mona's Medical Faculty.**

Development of Student Portals

- **UWI has recently developed or upgraded student portals. The integrated student portal (my.uwi.edu) is a university-wide initiative which allows for single sign-on access to the electronic student information system (banner), the moodle learning management system, email, library resources and other applications. The student portal was recently upgraded to allow for deployment on mobile devices.**

- **A graduate student information portal (Graduate Research Information Portal, GRIP) was recently launched.**

- **Many UWI departments are developing interactive websites with blogging capabilities, for example the Quality Assurance Unit recently launched such a website.**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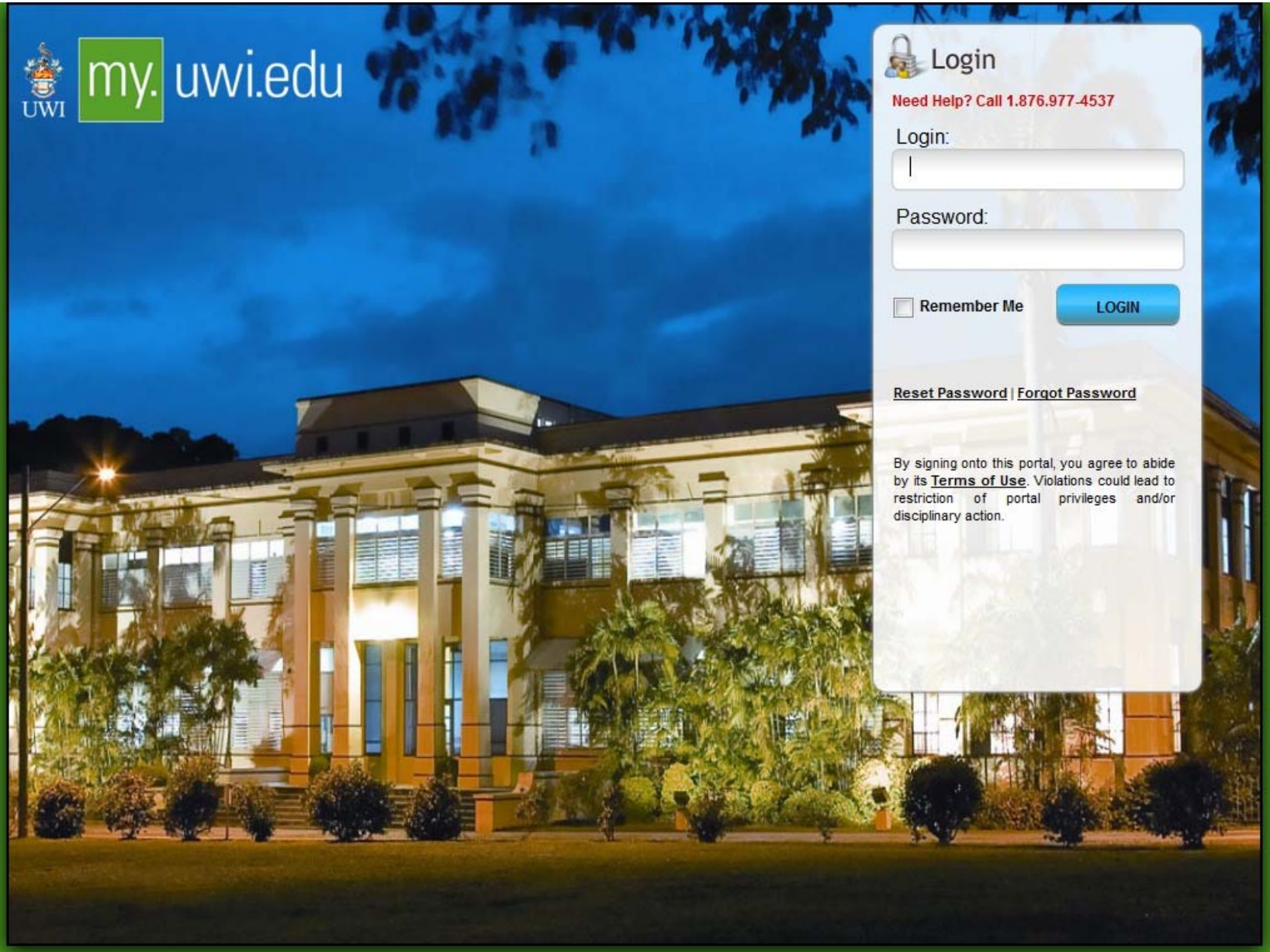
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Integrated Information Services

- **The focal point of UWI's information services is a library system that is integrated right across the UWI.**

- **In October 2011, UWI launched its UWI Libraries' Information Connexion (UWIlinC(knowledge portal. UWIlinC consolidates disparate library collections into one systems and, thereby provides students and staff instanteous access to a range of library material including digitized print, audio, video and images from all the libraries across all four UWI campuses via a single web space.**

- **For external parties, the new UWIlinC portal opens a window to UWI's extensive range of unique Caribbean scholarly resources.**

Administrative Support Systems

- **Over the last several years, UWI has focused on ensuring that all administrative support systems and student-interface systems are on-line. These include on-line application and student registration and on-line human resource and financial systems.**

- **The systems in use include Banner Student and Finance Enterprise applications and People Soft Human Capital Management Support Systems.**

Access to Research and Education Networks

- **At UWI's St. Augustine and Cave Hill Campuses, students and staff have access to high speed dedicated network connections such as Internet2, which link research networks with peer networks all over the world to support science and engineering research.**

- **UWI has invested in a router (colocated) in Network Access Point of Americas in Miami which will facilitate additional inter-connectivity of its campuses.**

- **UWI is collaborating with C@ribnet (the Caribbean Regional Research and Education Network) to provide additional interconnectivity between UWI, National Research and Education Networks (NRENS) and the international research networks.**

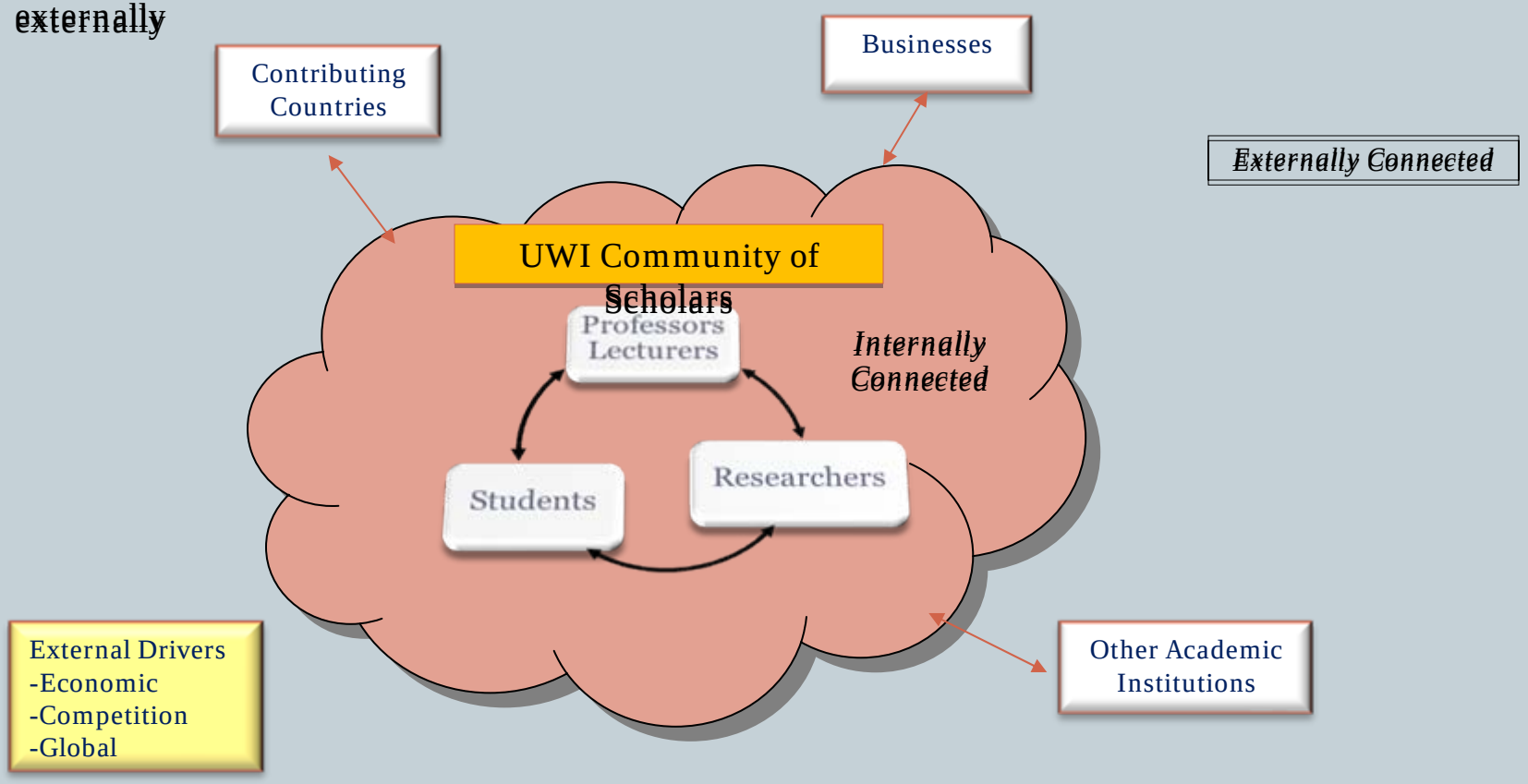
Single Virtual University Space Initiative

- **All of UWI's ICT initiatives are being brought together under the rubric of the SVUS, which is a cyber platform dedicated to enabling students anywhere in the University to access the best teaching and learning resources available at the University.**

- **The SVUS is perceived as an institutional extension medium which will provide the platform that consolidates the ICT and ODL operations on one cyber platform, allowing UWI to provide one stop student services to all students, including those not registered at one of its residential campuses, through the operations of UWI's Open Campus, which was launched five years ago to dramatically improve UWI's access to students from across all its contributing territories.**

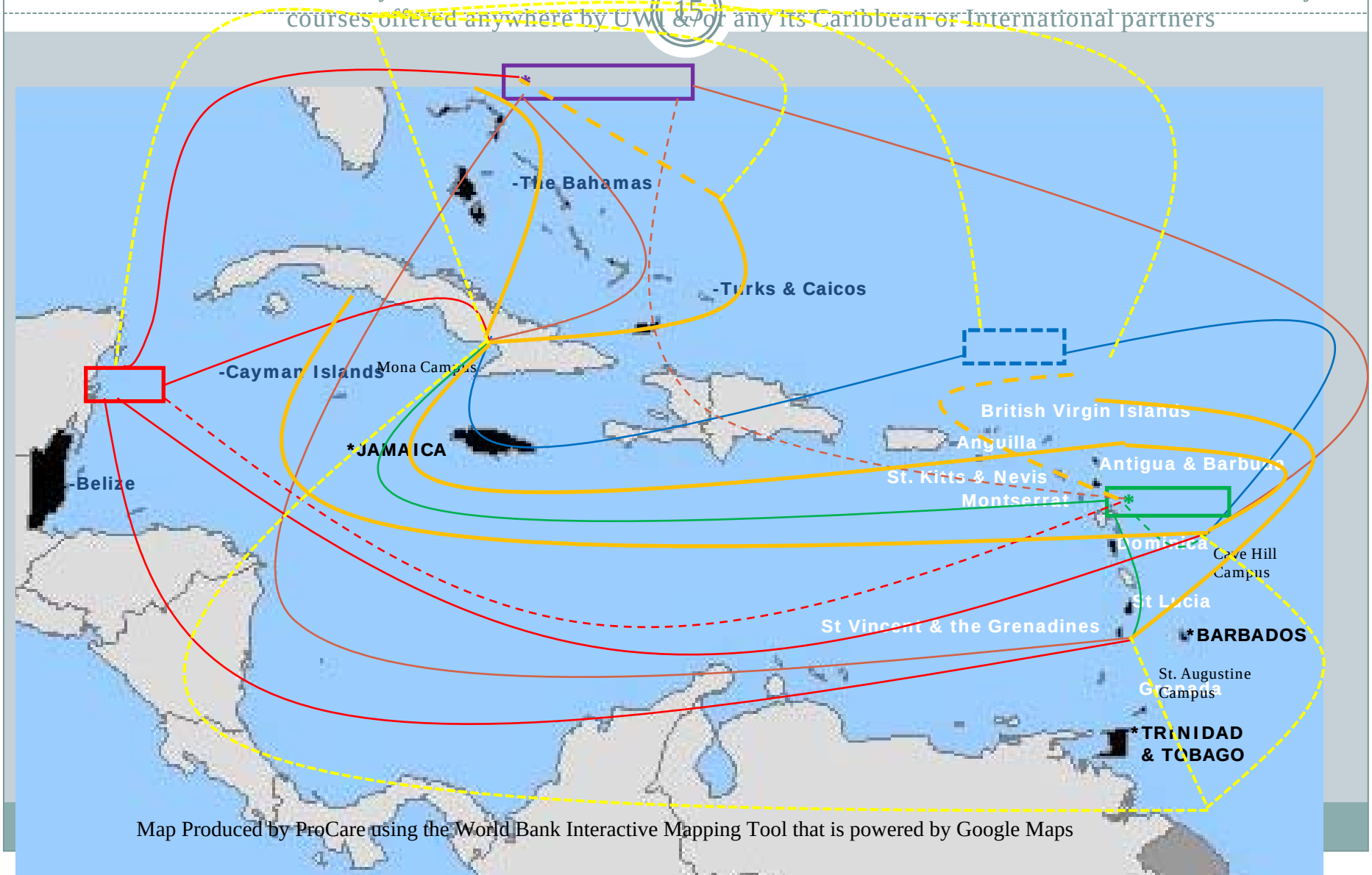
Connected University

SVUS is technological enabler that will connect UWI and each of its four campuses both internally and externally



QUANTUM LEAP : Main Proposition

if a student from anywhere in the Caribbean is able to enrol from the convenience of own home country in courses offered anywhere by UWI &/or any its Caribbean or International partners



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