



PR#002-26

PRESS RELEASE

MoECST Addresses Charter Expiration of American Northwest University School of Medicine

Belmopan, January 7, 2025.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST) addresses public concerns regarding the closure of the American Northwest University School of Medicine following the expiration of its charter, which expired in June 2024 and was not renewed primarily because the institution did not meet the required terms and conditions for charter renewal.

MoECST is mindful of the concerns expressed by affected students, including approximately 25 Belizean students, regarding the potential disruption to their medical education.

The Ministry has begun direct engagement with these students to provide guidance and explore available options to ensure continuity of their studies with minimal academic disruption.

As part of these efforts, MoECST has initiated discussions with the University of Belize (UB), which operates a medical school, to facilitate a seamless transition for affected students who wish to continue their studies.

The Ministry assures students and their families that all reasonable efforts will be made to support continuity of education. Where necessary, the Government of Belize is prepared to consider support for certain financial obligations associated with these transition arrangements, subject to established procedures and approvals.

MoECST remains committed to transparency, adherence to regulatory processes, and the highest standards of quality and integrity in higher education. The Ministry's priority continues to be the best interests of students, ensuring access to quality medical education, and maintaining the credibility of Belize's higher education system.

Ends

For more information, please contact:
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST)
Communications and Public Relations
communications@moe.gov.bz