



BNTU Buzz

July 2022

Solidarity Forever!

Volume 1, No. 2

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COVID19: OMICRON Variant...

Everything you need to know

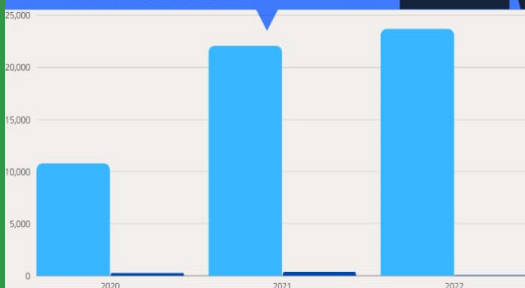


4.2 Times more contagious

The Omicron variant spreads more easily than the original virus that causes COVID-19 and the Delta variant. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms.

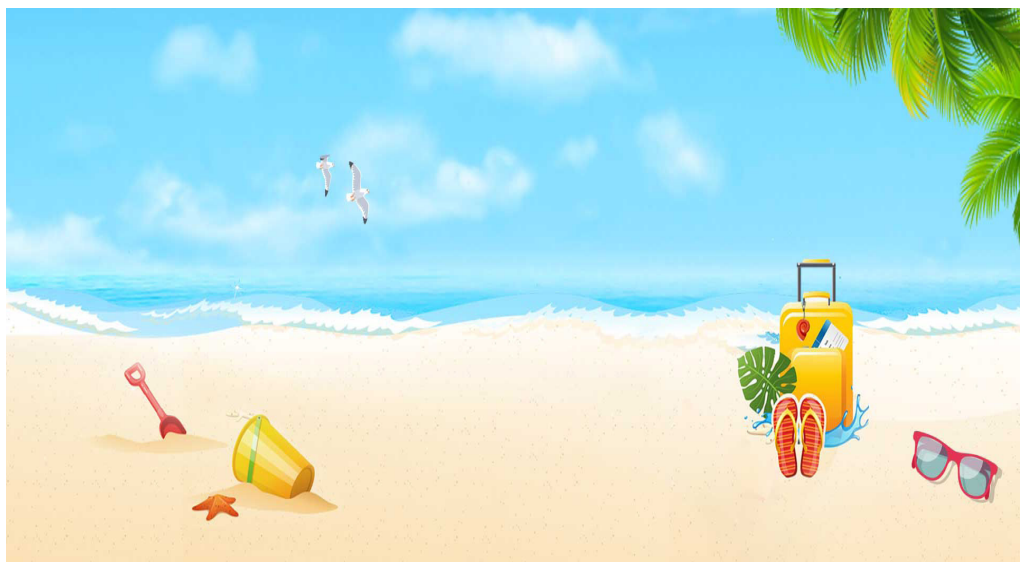
Symptoms:

Signs and symptoms include respiratory symptoms and include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and sometimes death.



Prevention:

- CDC recommends that everyone 5 years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting vaccinated. Everyone ages 12 years and older should stay up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines and get a booster shot when eligible.
- Wear a mask with the best fit, protection, and comfort for you.
- Wash your hands and do not touch your face



National President's Message

Greetings to our wonderful members of BNTU.

Holiday! Holiday!

I extend warmest greetings to each of you, our very important members. I do hope that you have been enjoying the first few weeks of your vacation because you deserve to relax, let loose and enjoy every second of the short one month vacation period that you have. I also want to extend immense gratitude to you for the tremendous work you have done over the last few months. Once again, it wasn't the easiest time for us but you all made the most of it and gave it your all. Our students are now a bit closer to bridging the gap that COVID created because of your stellar performance.

As you wind down the vacation month, I want to remind you that during the month of August, you are on call and should be available when called upon by your administration, Management or Ministry. I must also remind you that you are also expected to attend CPD sessions during this month to gain hours toward your license renewal. Be sure to submit your application for renewal of license or special permit at least three months before it expires to ensure you have a new license or permit in hand before the expiration of the current one. I want to ensure that you are able to continue in this profession that you love so dearly so please take note of your license or permit expiration date. Do not depend on administration or Management to inform you of its expiration. Additionally teachers, please ensure that your appraisals for this past school year were completed and you signed them. Know that you must always sign your appraisals as there are used to verify employment status. Finally, be reminded to sign up for hardship or commuting allowances before Sept 15 to ensure you are able to receive the one you qualify for.

Members, as difficult as the past year may have been, there were also successes. Some of you completed your programs of study and will be graduating soon. Others completed and recently graduated. To all of you, I say congratulations. Your efforts to qualify yourselves are commendable especially during this difficult period. For those of you who were unable

(continued on next page)

BNTU Buzz

NAJ Design brings it to light!

by Samson Jacobs

Ms. Jacy-Lee Alina Pou is an intelligent, gifted and autonomous single-mother of a beautiful daughter, Aevah, whom she adores very much and a primary school teacher with eleven years of experience. Today she is teaching at Burrell Boom Methodist School at the infant division.

Her career as a teacher helped develop her skills in creating and designing basic charts for the classroom. So, she began assisting a few close teacher friends with classroom preparations. Later her ambitious aspirations as a teacher along with the encouragement and motivation of others who recognized her talent, has led to the fruition of her small business "NAJ Designs".

NAJ Designs specializes in classroom charts, birthday frames, invitations, programs and certificates – teachers request a classroom theme and NAJ Design brings it to light!

You can find NAJ Design on Facebook or WhatsApp at 614-9018 ... She will brighten your classroom with a Special touch of Sparkles!

<https://www.facebook.com/NAJDesignsBelize>



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National President's Message...

to enroll in a program, I encourage you to do so soon. Learning new skills or building on what you already have is quite beneficial to you becoming a better teacher. I encourage you to take on the challenge and become a better version of yourself. I am also very proud to report that we issued out additional land documents to our members. While we have not received for all those who applied, we have received quite a few. I promised you all enhanced benefits and I was able to deliver on that thanks to collaborative efforts. Thus far we have distributed documents as follows:

Belize Branch	– 67
Belmopan Branch	– 42
Benque Branch	– 28
Corozal Town Branch	– 19
Corozal Rural Branch	– 6
Orange Walk Branch	– 99
Punta Gorda Branch	– 14
San Ignacio Branch	– 68
Stann Creek	– 67

Whilst we would have preferred to have distribute much more, we must await the processing of the applications by the Ministry. As soon as we receive another set, we will joyfully deliver those. I once more thank Minister Hyde and his team for collaborating with us to see this project come to fruition.

Members, as we prepare to start a new school year, I encourage our Reps to work on recruiting those members of staff who are not members of BNTU. I also remind you that your Union is here for you whenever you need us. All you need to do is to call or email us about your grievance, request our intervention and we will be sure to address your matter. Some may take longer than others to resolve but we will see them through to the end. Remember that our role is to serve and represent you so do not suffer in silence. We are here to assist you.

I take this opportunity to remind us that we are here, stronger than before, because of the work of those who came before us. They started the work and we must ensure that we build on that work. To do so, we must continue to grow, we must share the good work of the union, we must educate our colleagues on the benefits the union fought for and we must always remember that in unity there is strength. When we work together and support the work of our leaders, no one

can destroy or take advantage of us. We must each do our part to ensure that we can keep our benefits such as vacation, long leave and time off for meetings to name a few, but to also add to those benefits by walking side by side in the fight for betterment for all of us.

I wish each of you much success for the upcoming school year. Relax, rejuvenate and get ready to give your best again. Remember that a new curriculum is coming up as well as the revision of the Education Rules. Stay connected. Get involved. Read the Handbook and share your ideas/concerns regarding the Rules. Together we can make a difference. Together we can build the kind of education system we believe will be the best for all of us. Remain engaged and I look forward to seeing you all very much involved in our upcoming union activities. God bless and keep each of you. Long live BNTU!!!

Solidarity forever,

Senator Elena Smith
National President



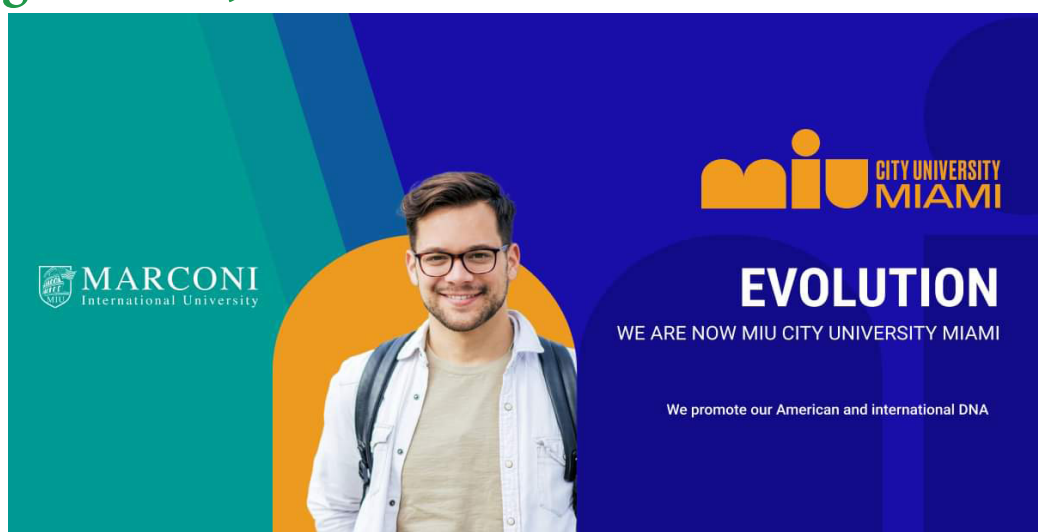
Master's in Educational Leadership, Management and Emerging Technologies for 9,000 Belize dollars

by Bay Rivas

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

Master's in Educational Leadership,
Management and Emerging Technologies

Credit Hours	36
Cost per Credit	\$USD 280.00
Total Program Tuition	\$ USD 10,080
Monthly payments of	\$USD 224.00
for 18 installments plus	\$USD 400
graduation fee.	



MIU Charges and Fees

<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee-Domestic (Non- Refundable)	\$ 50
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Fee-International (Non- Refundable)	\$ 150
<input type="checkbox"/> First Time I-20 Application Fee (Non- Refundable)	\$ 250
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduation Fee	\$ 400
<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawal Fee	\$ 100
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scholarship 60%	\$ (6,048)
<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Credits _____ credit x \$ _____	\$
FINAL COST DUE	\$ 4,582

Other External Charges

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foreign Credential Evaluation Costs (Non- Refundable)	\$ 150
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The university offers a 50% discount on all courses as they are fully online.

The 60% scholarship comes from an additional 10% discount from OAS.

Requirements and application :
<https://miuniversity.edu/admission/>

In order to be admitted to one of our Master's programs, applicants must possess a valid Bachelor's Degree. Graduates of recognized academic institutions outside the United States should hold a degree equivalent to a U.S. Bachelor's degree. The Admissions Office will indicate how to get the equivalency.

Applicants will be considered for admission if they satisfy the following:

- Submit a Bachelor's Degree and transcripts
- Submit a \$150 non-refundable application fee
- Submit a \$150 non-refundable foreign credential evaluation fee
- Submit a Scholarship request form (attached)

- Submit an updated Resume
- Copy of valid government issued ID or Passport

ACCREDITATION:

The Master of Science in Educational Leadership and Emerging Technologies lasts 18 months according to the US requirements for the Master of Science programs and it is accredited by ACICS www.acics.org a national accreditation agency in the United States approved by the US Department of Education.

ACCREDITATION IN BELIZE:

This master's degree program is approved by the Belize Board of Teacher Education (BBTE).

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Scholarship opportunities are announced at the beginning of every year.

Step 1 Application for admission to the MIU study program: In order to apply for an OAS-MIU scholarship, it is essential to have been admitted to any of the study programs described above

in the program table at MIU. Applicants must follow the MIU admission process to the study program of their interest. The applicant must present all the documentation that MIU requires. Once the student is admitted to the program of their choice, MIU will issue the student an acceptance letter. Applicants must take into account that it is necessary to make the payment of the admission fee required by MIU, in order to be admitted to the study program. For more information on admission costs, please contact MIU directly.

STEP 2 OAS-MIU scholarship application Students interested in applying for the scholarship must follow the admission process directly with MIU, stated above. By being admitted to the study programs included in this call and receiving the application letter, the applicant will automatically be considered as a candidate for the OAS-MIU scholarship.

STEP 3 Selection of OAS-MIU scholars MIU and the OAS will constitute a specialized Committee to make the selection of the hundred scholarship recipients. Among the elements that will be considered for the award of scholarships are the following aspects: The geographical distribution of the candidates, taking into account the most important needs of the Member States, according to the Human Development Index reported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Academic profile, merit, and academic credentials The potential impact of the applicant on

Master's in Educational Leadership...

the completion of the study program
Gender distribution.

STEP 4 Publication of OAS-MIU Results
The applicant must await the publication of the results of the evaluation and selection process of the candidates, which will be announced on www.oas.org/scholarships in August 2023

STEP 5 Scholarship acceptance process and start of classes
Only the selected candidates will be contacted by MIU through email, where they will receive the scholarship offer and the instructions to accept it. Once the candidate has accepted the scholarship offer, the fellow must initiate the corresponding payment procedures with MIU

Study plan: <https://miuniversity.edu/master-degrees/master-in-educational-leadership-management-and-emerging-technologies/study-plan/>

Oas Scholarship: <https://miuniversity.edu/tuition/scholarship/oas/>

www.oas.org/scholarships

MIU Admissions

Telephone: (+1) (786) 706-5695

E-mail: admissions@miuniversity.edu

www.miuniversity.edu/



G Creations & Studio

My name is Gladys Arriaza and I live in the beautiful town of Benque Viejo. For the past 15 years, I have been a teacher at Mopan Technical High School. I am currently employed as a Clothing and textile teacher. I consider myself a very creative person and being a clothing and textile teacher for these couple of years has presented many opportunities to explore and enhance my creative skills and that's how my small business G's Creation and studio came about.

After finding out my passion for decoration and adding beauty to things, I decided to offer my service through online platforms such as Facebook by creating small baby fashion clothes and decorating them with accessories such as ribbons, lace, flowers, etc. As the time progressed, I then decided to innovate to please my customers and that is when the idea to offer personalized services came into play. Now G's Creation and Studio has become a small business that offers its clients personalized printing such as sublimation, heat-transfers-vinyl for t- shirts, and mugs. Paper crafting such as invitation cards, stickers, and labels. Epoxy resin crafts, such as resin glitter tumblers, keychains. Custom sewing such as pillowcases, and tutu sets. You name it and we create it for you at a reasonable price. Each craft is unique and made with love.

G's Creation and Studio is located in:
**Hills of Promise,
Benque Viejo del Carmen,
Cayo District.**

Contact # is **6052685** and can also found us in social media Facebook and Instagram as g's creations.

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/gcreations17>



Nails by Donna

Nails by Donna was started in the early 2000 by Teacher Donna Romero Ramirez.

Teacher Donna Ramirez started by taking a course in manicure in Chetumal Mexico from the age of 15 years, during her summer vacations. Donna, with her entrepreneurial attitude, did house calls in her neighborhood and community while attending the University of Belize in Punta Gorda and also in Belmopan.

Nails By Donna Salon was opened at:
Corner King Street and Main Middle Street
Peini,
Punta Gorda.

Donna specializes in manicure, pedicure, Nail care and beautification, both in gel and acrylic.

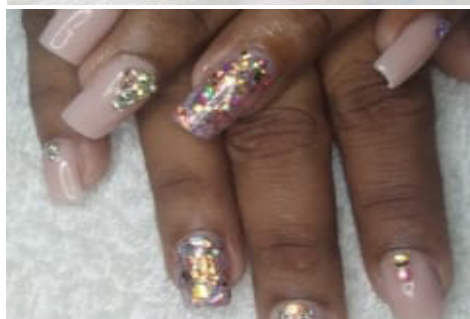
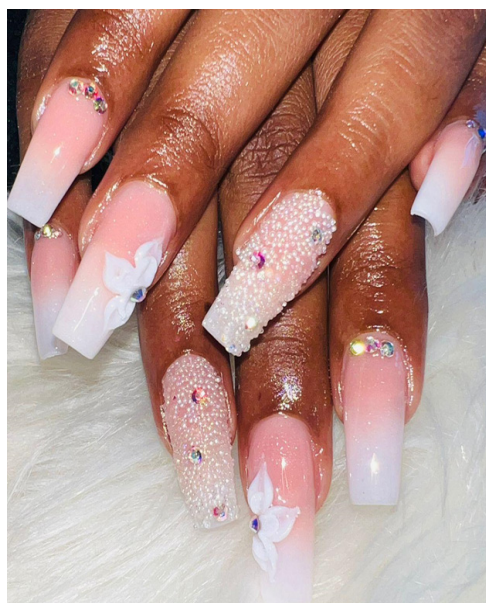
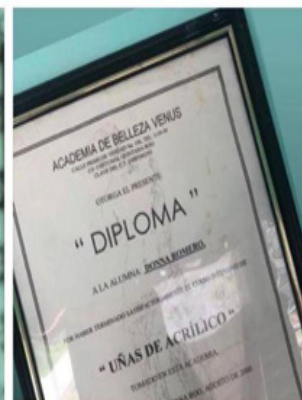
One day she hopes to expand the business to a full-fledged salon and spa to cater to all the care and beautification for women. Also promoting nail care for males (manicures and pedicures), and a nail academy to promote entrepreneurship for young aspiring nail techs.



Toledo First Movement

26 Feb 2021 • 🌐

Can you say nail tech level EXPERT? Our very own Donna Romero of [Nails By Donna](#) has been in the biz for 20 years! Congrats Donna, you make Toledo proud!!
[#supportlocal](#) [#keepToledofirst](#)



BNTU BUZZ NEWSLETTER
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CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT

by Ruth Shoman,
BNTU National Secretary

When Employment is on a year-to-year basis. Managements must make this request annually and provide a copy of the appraisal form to the Teaching Service Commission Secretariat so that the Teaching Service Commission can consider an approval for continued employment.

Below are the rules that address the circumstances under which continued employment is required. It is important to note that approval is not automatic since teachers must have a satisfactory appraisal and must be in possession of a valid license.

Rule 64:

(1) The employment of all members of staff of any school shall be in accordance with these Rules and any other laws made governing the employment of such staff.

(4) Where a person employed as a Principal or Vice-Principal at a pre-school, primary or secondary, school or institution –

(a) possesses only a Full Licence without more, that Principal or Vice-Principal shall be eligible for employment on a year to year basis only up to a maximum period of five years until that Principal or Vice-Principal, as the case may be, complies with the requirements.

(b) possesses a Provisional Licence, that Principal or Vice-Principal shall be eligible for employment on a year to year basis only up to a maximum period of seven

Rule 66:

A Managing Authority may offer employment to a person so selected to teach or to be Principal or Vice-Principal in a pre-school, primary, secondary, or technical and vocational school or institution.

(2) Subject to sub-rule (1), in offering an employment contract to a teacher, principal, or vice-principal, a Managing Authority shall offer one of the following contracts, as applicable –

(a) in respect of a teacher in possession of a provisional licence a temporary

employment contract for one year from the date of employment, provided that such teacher may be eligible for continued temporary employment on a year-to-year basis up to a maximum of five years to afford him the opportunity of meeting the requirements for a Full Licence, in accordance with section 29(7) of the Act, subject to satisfactory performance as determined by performance appraisals;

(b) in respect of a teacher in possession of a Full Licence, an employment contract for a probationary period of a year but which may be extended for an additional year;

(c) in respect of a teacher in possession of a Full Licence who has successfully served the probationary period as required under the Act, an employment contract for the remainder of the period post probationary service, but which may not exceed the period for which the licence is valid;

(d) in respect of a teacher in possession of a Special Licence a temporary employment contract for a maximum period of two years in the first instance which temporary employment contract may be renewed for subsequent maximum periods of two years in each instance where the circumstances so warrant;

(e) in respect of first time Principals or Vice-Principals in possession of a Full Licence and certification in education leadership in accordance with rule 64(3) a contract of employment for a probationary period of up to two years and upon successful completion of the probationary period, as supported by performance appraisals, an employment contract for a period of three years subject to the maintenance of their Full Licence;

(f) in respect of Principals or Vice-Principals in possession of a Full Licence or Provisional Licence, without more, a contract of employment on a year to year basis in accordance with rule 64(3);

(g) in respect of a manager or Principal of a TVET institution in possession of a Special Licence, a contract of employment for a maximum period of two years.

REMINDER

1. All of the following **MUST BE APPROVED** by the Teaching Service Commission before it can be enforced:

- a) *Employment (whether temporary or permanent)*
- b) *Urgent Personal Affairs Leave of 10 days or more*
- c) *Leave without Pay*
- d) *Sick Leaves beyond the 16 days approved annually*
- e) *Maternity Leaves*
- f) *Long Leave*
- g) *Professional Development Leave*
- h) *Study Leave*

2. **Resignation:** Teachers shall give the Managing Authority no less than one month's notice.

3. **Retirement:** Teachers may retire at age 55 but may continue if they so wish up to age 60. Teachers must inform their Managing Authority in writing one year in advance what they wish to do. The Managing Authority **CANNOT** force retirement on teachers.

4. **Transfers** **MUST** be approved by the Commission. Remember that Transfers cannot be used as a form of punishment.

5. Teachers who were interviewed for a teaching post starting this school year, must have a letter of approval from Commission before beginning to teach.

6. **Probationary Period** for teachers with full license in a substantive post is one year or two years if needed. After that, Management **CANNOT** have teachers signing yearly contracts. Management **MUST** request that the teacher be "Appointed."

7. Always keep your own file at home. Make copies of everything and keep in your file. You will need these when retiring.

8. If your name changes, please advise your Management and send them relevant copies.

9. You are entitled to see your file that is at the Teacher Administrative Services (TAS) to check against your file at home. Remember that the file at TAS will be used to calculate your benefits.

10. Seek your Union when you need guidance. We are here to serve you.