



# Reggae Math Foundation

## **\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2017

### **REGGAE MATH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS TO CREATE INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS FOR MATH STUDENTS**

Videos aim to help elevate Jamaican students who are struggling with math by matching them with an inspirational teacher’s recorded lessons

Staten Island, NY – With an overwhelming number of Jamaican students failing to succeed in mathematics, Reggae Math Foundation (RMF) founder and trustee Linda Bailey-McWeeney, Ph.D., has announced that the organization will begin crowdsourcing on July 18, 2017 to raise the funds needed to create the first series of educational videos designed to reach students who are struggling in the classroom.

According to the Jamaica Ministry of Education National Mathematics Policy Guidelines, only 17% of graduating students in Jamaica passed the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) high school math exam between 2001 and 2011. Further, Dr. Bailey-McWeeney reports that with these grades, some 80% of Jamaican students are proceeding to the workforce as high school drop-outs. This makes the majority unprepared for skilled work and low-paying jobs drive up crime. Without intervention, she said, the Caribbean cannot reach its full potential.

To correct the problem at its core, the RMF strives to locate math teachers around the globe who use different techniques and approaches to teach, starting with teachers in Jamaica. RMF will record these teachers’ lessons and make the videos available to kids who need extra help learning math. This is a great option for families who cannot afford tutors or additional resources for their struggling child.

“The Reggae Math Foundation will work with effective teachers and programs to improve the capacity and resources of the high school with regard to math, creating a workforce who employers can build upon,” Dr. Bailey-McWeeney said.

Currently, RMF is crowdsourcing to raise enough money to create 10 videos of educators with a knack for reaching students who are having difficulties. The cost is approximately \$5,000. If the organization can raise over \$5,000, they will continue to create additional videos adding great math teachers from outside of Jamaica.

“We want to see a better and brighter future for Jamaican kids, and we believe a solid foundation in math can help us out of the economic and social challenges we face,” Dr. Bailey-McWeeney said.

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#### **ABOUT THE REGGAE MATH FOUNDATION**

The Reggae Math Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, whose goal is to bring great teachers to every student with a desire to understand math. Its mission is to increase the love and understanding of math in underserved populations with a history of low performance in math. Using great teachers and tutors, professional development of teachers, and engaging activities and materials, our mission is to educate learners so they can teach someone else. For more, please visit <https://www.reggaemathfoundation.org/>

#### **ABOUT LINDA BAILEY-MCWEENEY, PhD**

Dr. Linda Bailey-McWeeney is the Executive Director of Reggae Math Foundation, an economist, and an educator. She has been an Assistant Professor at Baruch College, City University of New York and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Economics at College of Staten Island, City University of New York, Yeshiva University, and Wagner College. She has a Ph.D. in Economics from Michigan State University.