

Dr. Leo Gilling's
Educational Leadership and Mentorship Statement

A deep commitment to leadership, mentorship, and sustainable development has defined my career, spanning Jamaica, the Caribbean, and beyond. Over the past 35 years, I have had the privilege of founding and serving as executive chairman for both the Jamaican Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) and the Sam Sharpe Teachers College Past Student Association. These roles have allowed me to empower leaders, drive sustainable initiatives in education, health, agriculture, and technology, and foster meaningful change within our communities.

My seven-year involvement with the Miramar City Boards and the Sister City Commission has further enriched my leadership journey. Serving on the Miramar Parks and Recreation and Economic Development Boards has provided me with invaluable insights into the intricacies of policy development and community engagement. A significant milestone during this time was the development of the policy framework for establishing the Miramar-Kingston Sister City Commission. This initiative has strengthened cultural and economic ties, promoting shared growth and understanding between the two cities.

As the leader of JDTAN and the Sam Sharpe Teachers College Past Student Association, I have focused on inspiring and mentoring emerging leaders, advocating for resilience, collaboration, and innovation. Through strategic planning and community engagement, I have sought to connect global resources with local needs, ensuring our communities are prepared for contemporary challenges.

In educational settings, designing and implementing mentorship and emotional literacy programs for high school students has been a cornerstone of my philosophy. These programs equip young individuals with essential emotional intelligence and critical thinking skills, preparing them not only for academic excellence but also for compassionate, effective leadership in their communities.

Through these diverse efforts, I remain committed to nurturing empowered, informed, and proactive citizens ready to contribute meaningfully to society. My work with city boards, sister-city commissions, and educational initiatives reflects a holistic approach to leadership, one that invests in people and creates lasting foundations for sustainable development across Jamaica, the Caribbean, and international communities.