

Mr. Patrick Chinedu Onwuzirike, is originally from Nigeria, where he was bred and undertook his primary and secondary education. In 1990, he was offered a Nigerian-Cuban scholarship to read Mechanical Engineering.

His exceptional performance as the “Best Academic Graduate of the Year - 1996” in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of **ISPJAE** with a **First Class Honours**, landed him another post-graduate scholarship with option for a doctoral degree. He however opted to read for a Masters, which he completed with a **Master’s Degree in Thermal Energy, specializing in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration**.

He is also a holder of another **Master’s Degree in Education Administration (Management, Supervision and Planning)**.

As a specialist in air conditioning and refrigeration, he was employed at the GTI in 1998 to start the refrigeration full-time programme. Since then, Mr. Chinedu (as he is called in Guyana) moved up the ranks at the GTI from the position of Lecturer II to that of the Principal in 2006, position he held until his transfer to the NATI. During his time as the Principal of the GTI, the Institute recorded its highest pass-rate of 73% at the GTEE, increased its population to over 2000 students and saw other improvements to which the board of Governors recognized and formed a Committee to upgrade the Institute to a Polytechnic. To this end a concept paper was prepared.

He was the founding member and first president of the Guyana Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Association (GARVA). He has also worked collaboratively with the Ministry of Agriculture and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through the National Ozone Action Unit (NOAU), to assist Guyana, as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol, to maintain compliance. During this time, he had also undertaken the re-training of Technicians and Custom Officials, throughout Guyana, on the safe handling and management of Refrigerants used in the Air conditioning and Refrigeration sector. He also played a critical role in the formulation and preparatory works in the writing of the CVQ standards in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, preparation of code of good practice manual for local technicians, etc.

Mr. Chinedu was in 2010 admitted as a **Member of the prestigious American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)**.

In 2011, he was transferred to the New Amsterdam Technical with a mandate to revamp the Institute and to prepare same for the piloting of the CVQ. In October 2012, he was promoted to his current position – Assistant Chief Education Officer – (Technical).