William Cecil Roberts is an Associate Professor and Department Chair at the St. Mary’s College of Maryland in the United States of America. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctorate degrees in Anthropology from institutes of higher learning in the United States of America and has written extensively in the field of economics, physical and cultural anthropology. He has also received many grants and fellowship from institutions in the United States for research and professional work on diverse subjects including conflict management, peace building and the development of scholars in America, the Caribbean and Africa. He initiated the educational exchange programme between St. Mary’s College of Maryland and the University of The Gambia, a programme that has afforded students of both institutions the opportunity to study in a different environment, gain exposure and broaden their horizons.

Professor Bill Roberts first came to The Gambia in the 1970s as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer and has since his return over three decades ago, committed himself to the development of relations between the two countries. He has received many awards and honours in his field of study and is a member of several professional organisations.

In recognition of his total dedication and commitment to the development of Education in The Gambia and his tireless efforts in the development of Gambia-America bilateral relations, Professor Bill Roberts was in July 2004 appointed Commander of the National Order of the Republic of The Gambia.

This insignia is being bestowed on him in appreciation of his valuable service to the Gambian nation.