[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Student Researchers Reach for the Stars with NASA's I^2 Programme

NIHERST, in partnership with NASA, is once again offering university students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) the opportunity of a lifetime; an all-expenses paid internship at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. Successful entrants to the programme will spend 10 weeks working with other interns under NASA mentors in fields ranging from advanced life support systems to nano-biosensor development to power electronics prognostics. On Monday 26th January, the returning interns of the last year's cycle, Stefan Hosein and Jason Renwick, will share their experiences at the official launch of the NASA I^2 Programme, 2015 cycle.

Through the programme, successful students have the opportunity to work and conduct research in state-of-the-art facilities with some of the best minds in their chosen fields and to attend seminars and lectures by leading figures in contemporary science and technology. Returning from their stay at the Ames Research Center the 2014 interns, Jason Renwick and Stefan Hosein expressed their gratitude to NIHERST and to NASA for the wealth of experiences that their internship has provided. During the internship, Jason conducted research on electronic prognostics in the Diagnostics and Prognostics Group while Jason worked with the Data Sciences Group of the Intelligent Systems Division, on machine learning and knowledge discovery in databases. Both interns will be conducting public lectures on their research work and internship at the Ames Research Centre in the following months.

Facilitated by NIHERST and NASA, with assistance from the United States Embassy of Port of Spain and the Ministry of Science and Technology, the 2015 I^2 programme offers university students a unique exchange opportunity, encouraging collaboration among US and international students, with the view to enhancing students' knowledge of STEM, developing skills in dynamic new areas of research, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and enabling future multinational missions and collaborations in science. This is also expected to benefit local tertiary level institutions as new avenues of research can be further developed based on the internship experiences at NASA. The programme also seeks to assist the country in advancing its capabilities in science and technology. Students interested in participating in the programme can contact NIHERST at **628-4398** or go to **niherst.gov.tt** for more information. **Deadline for submissions is February 19 2015.**

The media is cordially invited to the official launch of the NASA I^2 Programme 2015 press conference at 1:30pm on Monday 26 January, 2015 at the Teaching and Learning Complex (Lecture theatre A1), 27 Circular Road, St. Augustine.

For further information, please contact:
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About NIHERST

NIHERST is a statutory body established in 1984 to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. Its current work focuses on the development of a more diversified, knowledge-driven economy, based on the ingenuity of our people and their ability to create, adapt and use science and technology for wealth generation and national development. Many of its programmes aim to strengthen the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial capabilities of the general population. NIHERST is also engaged in research, such as in foresight and innovation, to support economic diversification; promoting innovation and the commercialisation of technology in priority sectors; and building global partnerships.