



PALO SECO'S MUSK-A-TEERS ALL SET TO REPRESENT T&T in Detroit!



Best Robot Performance Award was given to Musk-A-Teers from Palo Seco Secondary School

For the last three years, NIHERST working in partnership with its social investment partner SHELL Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., has had the exciting pleasure of coordinating the FIRST® LEGO® League National Championship in Trinidad and Tobago. Every year, FIRST® LEGO® League releases a Challenge, which is based on a real-world scientific topic. These challenges create an environment where children think like scientists and engineers to solve problems. Teams of up to ten children, with at least two adult coaches, participate in the Challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Game), developing a solution to a problem they have identified (Project), and this is done all guided by the FIRST LEGO League Core Values. This year's theme was "Into Orbit".

Indeed, last Saturday our participants broke free from their earthly constraints and went into Orbit during their game challenges and other exercises and we saw first-hand an excellent display of learning, creativity, teamwork and gracious professionalism. The Judges had a taxing time of selecting winners for the various awards among so many successful projects. At 5pm, at the end of play, the winners were announced.

At the closing ceremony, representatives from NIHERST, Ministry of Education and Shell Trinidad and Tobago echoed similar sentiments about the superb level of teamwork displayed, the excellent presentations and endorsed the fact that all participants were winners at the end of the day. Mr. Rondell Frank, STEM Coordinator at Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited applauded teams for their hard work and preparation leading up to the day's competition and reminded them that they all wore medals because they were all winners! Ms. Eleanor Davis, Curriculum advisor at Ministry of Education simulated a journey of going into Orbit and shared with the audience how the ministry was using new and engaging approaches to STREAM education to equip students with 21st Century skills as they navigate new frontiers. Ms. Lalla, Acting President of NIHERST went a bit further to commend the parents who continue to support their children's packed curricula and extra curricula schedules. To STEM volunteers from Shell Trinidad and Tobago and to the project team at NIHERST who worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth operation on the day she thanked them all for their dedication and support and the eventual success on the day.

Registration is open for the upcoming 2019/20 FIRST LEGO League Season. For further information, contact the NIHERST's Innovation Department at 642-6112 ext. 226/242/257 or innovation@niherst.gov.tt, or Marketing Department at 642-6112 ext. 250/291 or marketing@niherst.gov.tt or visit <http://niherst.gov.tt/fll>

1. Judges Award went to the Space Cadets team
2. The best Project Research Award was given to NAPSTECH from Naparima College
Best Robot Design was awarded to the Bionic Wolves team from St Joseph Convent, St Joseph.
3. NAPSTECH also nominated for the Global Innovation Award
4. With a mere 1-point difference from the winner of this year's championship, Wepala's Team-X which comprised some of the youngest participants in the competition emerged as 2nd Place winners.

