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MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Editor / Head of Department

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NIHERST takes another significant step in bolstering Trinidad and Tobago's Education future

[POS, 15th December, 2023] – In the 2023 edition of Teach ME Teacher's Virtual Curriculum and Student's Innovation Competitions, the National Institute of Higher Education Research Science and Technology (NIHERST), recognized the outstanding achievements of both students and educators. Over Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) in prizes was awarded.

The Teach ME programme is dedicated to elevating creativity levels in Trinidad and Tobago by enhancing capacities in Science, Technology, and Innovation. Its overarching goal includes boosting teachers' confidence and competence in imparting knowledge and technical skills related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering Mathematics) subjects at primary and secondary levels. Additionally, it aims to enhance the 21st-century skills of primary and secondary students, such as critical thinking, communication, and collaboration.

Setting the event's tone, Dr. Andrew Hunte, Chairman of NIHERST, expressed in his opening remarks, **"Today we are not just recognizing the achievements of the outstanding teachers and students who participated in the Teach ME project, we are witnessing a pivotal moment in the journey towards the future, a future that is shaped by the creativity, resilience, and determination of our young minds."**

He continued to emphasize, **"In a rapidly changing world, where the landscape of education is evolving, it is crucial to equip our young people with the skills and knowledge that will not only make them competitive but will also make them trailblazers in their respective fields."**

The Ministry of Education who has partnered with NIHERST to effect this programme, was represented by the Curriculum Officer of the Ministry of Education, Ms. Naressa Ganga.

Ms. Ganga echoed the sentiments of Dr. Hunte stating, **“In a world that is rapidly advancing in technology and science, nurturing the innovative spirit of our students is paramount. These competitions not only recognize and reward outstanding achievements but also serve as a platform for the students and teachers to showcase their talents and inventions. Our National Education Policy underscores the need for a holistic and student-centric approach to education, fostering an environment that accommodates creativity and critical thinking. Today’s event has provided our students with an opportunity to showcase their innovative solutions to real-world challenges.”**

In her address NIHERST President, Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis, underscored the profound importance and far-reaching impact of the Teach ME programme in her address. She highlighted, **“This initiative not only serves as a beacon of inspiration for our participants but also stands as a testament to the transformative influence of educational innovation through the building of a national STEM culture that is in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. By fostering creativity, critical thinking, and a passion for Science, Technology, and Innovation, the Teach ME competition plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of our nation in this 21st century.”**

The competition winners are as follows:

National Students’ Innovation Competition Winners

Junior Category	Senior Category
<p>1st Place Arya Hagley, Norah Reid & Juneau Howell San Fernando Girls’ Government School, Maria Regina Grade School, Blackman and Gollop Primary School <i>Hydro Guards: Smart Water Monitoring for Sustainable Conservation</i></p>	<p>1st Place Brielle Jairam Naparima Girls’ High School <i>Stop Praedial Larceny</i></p>
<p>2nd Place Alyssa Attim, Kalon Jaden Pope, Zayden Redhead & Kelsea Butcher Perseverance Preparatory School <i>Sweet Peace Academy</i></p>	<p>2nd Place Oba Vialva, Kymani Reyes, Devonte Carimbocas, Jesseira Baker & Isaac Lawrence Five Rivers Secondary School <i>H2OSaver: The Water Conservation Game</i></p>
<p>3rd Place Monique Winter, Ethan Ramdass & Ava-Marie Joseph St. Xavier’s Private School <i>Robotic Hospital</i></p>	<p>3rd Place Brendan Jaleel, Amand Basdeo, Alexander Lum Young, Narin Ramdath & Jayden Sankar Naparima College <i>Medical Autonomy</i></p>

National Teachers' Virtual Curriculum Competition Winners:

Primary School	Secondary School
<p>1st Place Sarah Villafana Tacarigua Presbyterian Primary School <i>The Concept of the Number 3</i></p>	<p>1st Place Anisa Silverton Seecharan Saint Benedict's College <i>The Structure of Planet Earth</i></p>
<p>2nd Place Tricia Seeraj St. Stephen's Anglican Primary School <i>Energy</i></p>	<p>2nd Place Liselli Daniel Malabar Secondary School <i>Stability</i></p>
<p>3rd Place Sandy Scott St. Agnes Anglican Primary School <i>States of Matter</i></p>	<p>3rd Place Dale Peters Speyside High School <i>Apiculture</i></p>

The Teach ME competitions are conducted annually, with the next installment scheduled to commence in May 2024.



From Left: Senior Specialist, NIHERST, Ms. Ryane Rollock, President, NIHERST, Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis, Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education, Naressa Ganga, V.P. Science and Technology (Ag.), NIHERST, Ms. Lovaan Superville, Project Officer and Coordinator of the Teach ME Project, Ms. Josanne Warner



[Winners of the National Students' Innovation Competition in the Junior Category]

Back Row from Left: Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist, NIHERST), Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis (President, NIHERST), Ms. Naressa Ganga (Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education), Ms. Lovaan Superville (V.P. Science & Technology (Ag.), NIHERST), Ms. Josanne Warner (Project Officer and Coordinator of the Teach ME Project, NIHERST).

Front Row from Left: Ethan Ramdass, Monique Winter, Ava-Marie Joseph (St. Xavier's Primary School), Ms. Alyssa Attim (Perseverance Preparatory School), Ms. Arya Hagley (San Fernando Girls' Government School), Ms. Norah Reid (Maria Regina Grade School), Mr. Kalon Jaden Pope (Perseverance Preparatory School)



[Winners of the National Students' Innovation Competition in the Senior Category]

Back Row: Jayden Sankar (Naparima College), Amand Basdeo (Naparima College) Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist, NIHERST) Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis (President, NIHERST), Ms. Naressa Ganga (Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education) Ms. Lovaan Superville (V.P. Science & Technology (Ag.), NIHERST) Mr. Kymanni Reyes (Five Rivers Secondary) Ms. Josanne Warner (Project Officer and Coordinator of the Teach ME Project, NIHERST), Ms. Jesseira Baker (Five Rivers Secondary) Ms. Brielle Jairam (Naparima College), Mr. Devonte Carimbocas (Five Rivers Secondary)

Front Row: Mr. Brendan Jaleel (Naparima College), Mr. Alexander Lum Young (Naparima College), Mr. Narin Ramdath (Naparima College) Mr. Oba Vialva (Five Rivers Secondary) Mr. Isaac Lawrence (Five Rivers Secondary School)



[Winners of the Teachers' Curriculum Competition]

From Left: Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist, NIHERST), Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis, (President, NIHERST), Ms. Naressa Ganga (Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education), Ms. Lovaan Superville, (V.P. Science and Technology (Ag.), NIHERST) and Ms. Josanne Warner (Project Officer and Coordinator of the Teach ME Project, NIHERST)

Front Row from Left: Ms. Anisa Silverton Seecharan (Saint Benedict's College), Ms. Liselli Daniel (Malabar Secondary School) Mr. Dale Peters (Speyside High School), Ms. Sarah Villafana (Tacarigua Presbyterian Primary School) and Ms. Sandy Scott (St. Agnes Anglican Primary)

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. The Institute is an agency under the Ministry of Education. 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.

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