

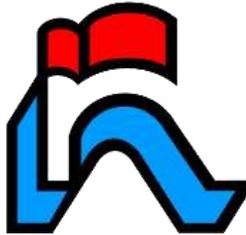
OFFICE ADDRESS

Grayson Courtyard, Lot #24 Estate Trace,
Off 6th Avenue,
Barataria

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 113, St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain

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**NIHERST**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RESEARCH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT ACT NO. 20 OF 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27th 2026

Dear Editor / Head of Department

NIHERST Honours Outstanding Achievements at Teach ME Teachers' Virtual Curriculum Competition and National Students' Innovation Competition

St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, Friday, 27 February 2026 – The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) celebrated excellence in teaching and student innovation during its **Prize Giving Ceremony** held on Friday, 27 February. The event featured a welcome address by **Ms. Julie David, President (Ag.), NIHERST**, and a feature address by **Senator the Honourable Emeritus Professor Prakash Persad, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training**.

"Since its inception, the TEACH ME programme has touched the lives of over 10,000 students and hundreds of teachers. Many have gone on to pursue STEM studies, careers, and innovations that contribute meaningfully to national development. But the true success of Teach ME is not measured in numbers, it is measured in the confidence of a teacher to embrace new technology," said **Ms. Julie David**.

The ceremony recognised the winners of the 2025 **Teachers' Virtual Curriculum Competition** and the **National Students' Innovation Competition**, highlighting innovation and academic excellence across Trinidad and Tobago.

Teachers' Virtual Curriculum Competition 2025 Winners:*Primary School Category*

- **1st Place:** Kachet Henry, The University School – *Parts of a Flower*
- **2nd Place:** Sarah Villafana, Tacarigua Presbyterian Primary School – *Concept of the Number 5*
- **3rd Place:** Sandy Scott, St. Agnes Anglican Primary School – *Forces, Infants 1*

Secondary School Category

- **1st Place:** Liselli Daniel, Malabar Secondary School – *The Moment of a Force*
- **2nd Place:** Anisa Silvertton Seecharan, St. Benedict's College – *Flight GeoSkies: Caribbean Hazards in the Sky*
- **3rd Place:** Safiya Lewis, Arima North Secondary School – *Problem Solving: Logical Operators and Truth Tables*

National Students' Competition Winners:

Junior Category

- **1st Place:** Thomas De Silva, Holy Faith Preparatory – St. Bernadette's – *Animated Descriptions with Roblox*
- **2nd Place:** Monique Winter, St. Xavier's Private School – *AI Safety Protocol*
- **3rd Place:** Luke Fridle, Barataria Anglican Primary School – *Enabling Innovation with AI and Greater Environmental Sensitivity*

Senior Category

- **1st Place:** Shreya Bahadoor, St. Stephen's College – *Piezoelectricity*
- **2nd Place:** Sasha Sultanti, Dinusha Maharaj, Ashley Ram, Jennifer Solomon & Sameer Mohammed, Holy Faith Convent Couva – *Farming Efficiency with AI*
- **3rd Place:** Ceanna Miller & Kayla Applewhite, St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando – *GeoTherma*

The Honourable Minister, embraced the opportunity to speak with younger students of Primary and Secondary Schools and thanked parents for supporting the children in their endeavours. Minister maintained that "STEM should be further developed in students from younger ages such as Primary and ECCE."

The NIHERST Prize Giving Ceremony highlighted the institute's commitment to fostering **science, technology, innovation, and education** across all levels. By recognising both educators and students, NIHERST inspired creativity, excellence, and forward-thinking approaches to teaching and learning in Trinidad and Tobago.

Photo 1:



Caption (L-R): Ms. Josanne Warner (Teach ME Project Officer), Senator the Honourable Emeritus Professor Prakash Persad (Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training), Ms. Julie David (President Ag. - NIHERST), Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist - NIHERST)

Photo 2 (National Students' Innovation Competition – Primary School Category):



Caption (L-R): Ms. Josanne Warner (Teach ME Project Officer), Senator the Honourable Emeritus Professor Prakash Persad (Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training), Mr. Thomas De Silva, (Primary 1st Place), Ms. Julie David (President Ag. - NIHERST), Ms. Monique Winter (Primary 2nd Place), Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist - NIHERST)

Photo 3 (National Students' Innovation Competition – Secondary School Category):



Caption:

Top Row (L-R): Kayla Applewhite (Secondary 3rd Place), Ms. Josanne Warner (Teach ME Project Officer), Dinusha Maharaj (Secondary 2nd Place), Ms. Julie David (President Ag. - NIHERST), Shreya Bahadoor (Secondary 1st Place), Senator the Honourable Emeritus Professor Prakash Persad (Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training), Sasha Sultanti (Secondary 2nd Place), Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist- NIHERST), Mr. Sanjeev Maharaj (Curriculum Planning and Development Division - Ministry of Education)

Bottom Row (L-R): Ms. Ashley Ram (Secondary 2nd Place), Mr. Sameer Mohammed (Secondary 2nd Place), Ms. Jennifer Solomon (Secondary 2nd Place), Ms. Ceanna Miller (Secondary 3rd Place)

Photo 4 (Teachers' Virtual Curriculum Competition – Primary Category):



Caption:

Top-Row (L-R): Ms. Josanne Warner (Teach ME Project Officer), Ms. Julie David (President Ag. - NIHERST), Senator the Honourable Emeritus Professor Prakash Persad (Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training), Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist - NIHERST), Mr. Sanjeev Maharaj (Curriculum Planning and Development Division - Ministry of Education)

Bottom Row (L-R): Ms. Kachet Henry (Primary 1st Place), Ms. Sarah Villafana (Primary 2nd Place), Ms. Sandy Scott (Primary 3rd Place)

Photo 5 (Teachers' Virtual Curriculum Competition – Secondary Category):



Caption (L-R): Ms. Liselli Daniel (Secondary Category 1st Place), Ms. Josanne Warner (Teach ME Project Officer), Ms. Julie David (President Ag. – NIHERST), Senator the Honourable Emeritus Professor Prakash Persad (Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training), Ms. Ryane Rollock (Senior Specialist-NIHERST)

Photo 6:



Caption: Cross-section of the audience

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Contact Information:

Marketing and Communications Department
National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST)
Email: marketing@niherst.gov.tt
Phone: 758-3381

About NIHERST:

The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science, and Technology (NIHERST) has been instrumental in advancing science, technology, and education in Trinidad and Tobago for over 40 years. NIHERST remains committed to building a knowledge-driven society by supporting educational initiatives that empower teachers, engage students, and inspire a culture of innovation.

Teach ME (Increasing **Teachers'** Confidence for **My Education**)

The Teach ME project was established in September 2017, following the completion of the INVOCAB project, an EU-funded initiative aimed at enhancing teachers' capacities in science education and implementing an innovation framework in selected schools in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica).

The Teach ME project aims to contribute towards improving the levels of creativity in Trinidad and Tobago by building and strengthening capacities in the areas of Science, Technology and Innovation, and specifically Science Education as an enabler for ensuring that our education at primary and secondary levels prepares our young people for the challenging world of Science and Technology.