



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Youth Development and National Service

# NATIONAL *Youth* | 20 AWARDS | 22

## **The Reel: XXVI**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
5:00 pm  
Regency Ballroom,  
Hyatt Regency Trinidad  
Port of Spain

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# WELCOME FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

It is my pleasure to welcome each of you to the 2022 National Youth Awards. As the COVID-19 Pandemic progressively moves to our rearview, it is indeed a delight to return to gathering, in person, for this auspicious occasion.

The COVID-19 Pandemic was undoubtedly a trying time for many of us, however, you, the youth, have exhibited phenomenal dedication and triumph within your respective fields and certainly deserve due recognition, as the 2022 National Youth Awards top nominees.

The National Youth Awards which is hosted each year, recognizes exemplary youth achievement in various spheres, while motivating others to strive for excellence. The Youth Awards Programme underscores the commitment of the Ministry towards achieving the Strategic Objectives of the National Youth Policy, particularly as it highlights youth economic participation and youth empowerment, all towards positive youth development.

The National Youth Awards is intended to highlight youth contributions to community and country, facilitate the empowerment of young people and positively impact the youth development landscape. However, let it serve to remind each of you, of your role and value as strategic partners in the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago.

I encourage all youth, highlighted as Champions at this 26<sup>th</sup> Edition of the National Youth Awards, to continue to be exemplars at school, at home and at work and persist in your contributions towards the transformation of your communities and country.

The Ministry of Youth Development and National Service remains steadfast in our commitment to providing the required support for **YOUTH**.

*Farook Hosein*

# MYDONS



**Farook Hosein**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of  
Youth Development  
and National Service

NATIONAL  
*Youth* | 20  
AWARDS | 22

**The Reel:**  
**XXVI**



**The Honourable  
Foster Cummings**  
Minister of  
Youth Development  
and National Service

NATIONAL  
*Youth* | 2022  
AWARDS  
**The Reel:  
XXVI**

Youth Advocates,

Congratulations on your nomination for the 2022 National Youth Awards!

This year's Edition, **'The Reel XXVI'**, celebrates Youth Excellence and features authentic stories of you, our young people, that are guaranteed to inspire and encourage your peers.

While each of you bring a unique narrative and deserve due recognition, thirty-two (32) young persons, youth-led and youth serving groups have been selected to be Champions in the various categories. The **Ministry of Youth Development and National Service (MYDNS)** is exceedingly proud of each of you and has provided this public platform to promote your positivity.

At the MYDNS, we are acutely aware of the criticality of promoting youth development and encouraging civic-minded citizens to contribute to National Service. The reach of our work is vast, as over 550,000 of you, our youth population, are between the ages of ten (10) and thirty-five (35) years.

We recognise each youth as a valuable contributor and strategic partner for our nation's sustainable future, which is why this Awards Programme has special significance. It is yet another means of reducing the gap between the Government and our youth, while giving us greater insight into your work and your achievements.

The Ministry will continue to engage **YOUTH** as co-creators of our country's sustainable future and will provide the right environments that will allow you to develop into citizens, who are Culturally Literate; Socially Connected; Technologically Savvy and Economically Empowered.

This evening, as we recognize 'Youth's Finest' at the National Youth Awards, we will see the change-makers and pace-setters who are prepared to transform the landscape of Trinidad and Tobago.

As your Youth Minister, I remain committed to supporting your vision and boundless talents and will continue to celebrate your achievements.

Congratulations to all our 2022 Awardees!

Yours in Youth Service,

*Foster Cummings*



# ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS

The National Youth Awards was established to commemorate the celebration of International Youth Day with the aim of bringing recognition to youth excellence.

This year will commemorate twenty-six (26) years of the Award's celebration and validation of the outstanding contributions made by young men and women of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The National Youth Awards aims to recognize exemplary youth achievement in various spheres while motivating others to strive for excellence. It underscores the commitment of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service (MYDNS) towards youth development and empowerment.

The MYDNS also acknowledges that the contributions made by the youth of Trinidad and Tobago should not go unnoticed and wishes to highlight these contributions as a means of positive reinforcement and reiteration of the Ministry's investment in their personal and professional development.

**MYDNS**

NATIONAL  
*Youth* | 20  
AWARDS | 22

**The Reel: XXVI**

# NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS PROGRAMME

## PRE-SHOW

Host's Welcome

Entertainment

Red Carpet Interviews

## AWARDS CEREMONY

National Anthem

Hosts' Welcome

Welcome Remarks

**Mr. Farook Hosein**  
Permanent Secretary  
MYDNS

Remarks

**Dr. The Honourable  
Nyan Gadsby-Dolly**  
Minister of Education

Feature Address

**The Honourable  
Foster Cummings**  
Minister of  
Youth Development  
and National Service

Entertainment

Presentation of Awards

Entertainment

Presentation of Awards

Entertainment

Presentation of Awards

Entertainment

Presentation of Awards

Vote of Thanks

**Mr. Sean Ramrattan**  
Director - Youth Affairs  
MYDNS

Entertainment

## CHAMPION AGRICULTURE AWARD (10-17)

A young person who demonstrates significant progress through agricultural pursuits.



### DANAE ROGE'T

Danae Roge't, has been engaged in farming and started a garden during the Pandemic. The first of her produce was used to help feed her family and she donated the surplus to neighbours and persons in need. Danae was showcased in various T.V. interviews including the Best Village Unit, launch of the Grow It Yourself Challenge.



### IHSAAN SOOBRATTEE

Ihsaan Soobrattee has always been fascinated with nature, helping care for vegetable crops at home. He used egg shells and vegetable peelings as compost and planted tomato plants in old paint containers. In April 2022, he was introduced to the SURE Foundation and their activities to promote agriculture among kids. In June, he was encouraged to join IKAW – Increase Kids to Agro World, another NGO, striving to teach and encourage kids in agriculture. His interest has widened and he talks about farming as a possible career.



### JORDAN ALI

Jordan Ali is an influencer who has inspired his fellow students to become more actively involved in agriculture. He led a team to victory in the recent Prime Minister's Best Village Award: Medium Category (Grow It Yourself) 2022. He also led his classmates to establish a Breadfruit Tree Forest at School, and successfully completed his Level 1 Caribbean Vocational Qualification in Tree Crop Farming. His humble leadership style is admirable, as he has moved his class to enter the Caribbean Vocational Qualifications Level II course of studies, in Rabbit Rearing.

## CHAMPION AGRICULTURE AWARD (18-35)

A young person who demonstrates significant progress through agricultural pursuits.



### ELON ROBINSON

Elon Robinson is the CEO of Better-Grow HydroFarm, who has made significant strides, as he began with 1000 plants and has now expanded to 8000+ plants. His goal is to become one of the best farmers, not only in T&T, but in the Caribbean. Along with his work in the community, he also spreads a consistent message on social media to inspire other young people to follow their dreams and work hard to create their own paths in agriculture.



### JODY WHITE

Jody White is the worldwide inventor of making macaroni from cassava and is the largest exporter of sweet potato and cassava products in Trinidad and Tobago. He has had 8 #1 products on amazon, all based with sweet potatoes and cassava. He serves as a mentor to many upcoming agro processors and exporters.



### RONALD CHAN

Ronald Chan grew up on a poultry and agriculture farm in Valencia, Trinidad. Ronald continues to contribute to the agricultural industry through the design and implementation of projects which favor agriculture and entrepreneurship.



## CHAMPION ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD (10-17)

A young person who excels in arts and culture. This can include performing arts (song, dance, monologue, drama, spoken word, music, entertainment and art and craft).



### ALYSSA JOSEPH

Alyssa Joseph recently won Junior Grand Vocalist and Junior Grand Champion at the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Los Angeles on July 30, 2022, receiving 2 trophies, 8 medals and one plaque. Alyssa is a singer, songwriter, artist, dancer, influencer, performer and international radio co-host on the Isaac 98.1FM tweens program. She has 10 original songs with very positive, meaningful messages.



### DANIEL RAJKUMAR

Daniel Rajkumar began Art at the age of 3 years, expressing his love for Trinidad and Tobago's culture by capturing the flora, fauna and people through his paintings. At age 12, his portraits are of a professional standard, as he exhibited ten times at the Rotunda Gallery and once at both the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago and the Fine Arts Market. He spends time perfecting his Art, hoping to inspire people.



### IHOUMA STRAUGHN GEORGE

Ihouma George is a 14-year-old Singer/Songwriter and recording Artiste from the beautiful village of Mt. Pleasant, Tobago. A student of the Mason Hall Government Secondary School and a Child Rights Ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago, Ihouma is a soulful performer who uses her voice to bring awareness to issues affecting youth. To date, Ihouma has recorded eleven (11) songs, some featuring artistes from around the world.

## CHAMPION ARTS AND CULTURE AWARD (18-35)

A young person who excels in arts and culture. This can include performing arts (song, dance, monologue, drama, spoken word, music, entertainment and art and craft).



### ANA LEESA RAMNARINE

Popularly known as DJ Ana, Ms. Ramnarine has been a pioneer of our culture taking our local music, customs and culture to the people of the world. During the pandemic, she freely entertained thousands of people on her live videos, teaching many people about the existence of Trinidad and Tobago. Her visual mixtape series showcases beautiful and historic places in Trinidad and Tobago and has gained millions of views on YouTube!



### JOSHUA REGRELLO

Joshua Regrello is a young, dynamic 'musical maverick' in the steelpan world of Trinidad and Tobago and is fast becoming the most sought-after pannist in the Caribbean. His unique approach to the performance on the National instrument, has infused a new wave of interest and appreciation for the pan among the younger generations. He has released, on the Digicel 'D Music App' and on Youtube, compilations of popular songs on the steelpan.



### KEMI IBLE

Kemi Ible is a multi-skilled creative, who has a Bachelor's Degree in Music from the University of the West Indies and is currently pursuing a Master's in Education. As a member of Nutrien Silver Stars, she has arranged for their stage-side band. She has tutored pan for the youth band, North Coast Pan Serenaders, and has also been the main Musical Arranger for the Patrons of the Arts Steel Band Camp, held at Queen's Hall.



## CHAMPION CREATIVITY IN TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AWARD (18-35)

A young person who has achieved excellence in ICT or technology, including invented or created an app, designed an element, or invented an object that has improved, positively changed or impacted on the lives of T&T citizens.



### JUDE MARK

In January 2020, due to the pandemic, Jude Mark's global fashion brand launch was cancelled. He immediately pivoted and began the design of a Wearable Technology device; a "Personal Air Filtration Tech Helmet." This device was innovated to fight not just against airborne viruses but also air pollution, which happens to kill over 7 million persons each year. He now has an Advisory Board of some of Silicon Valley's most respected names in Tech.



### ROMARIO PATRICE

As a young film director/editor/producer and actor from Moruga, Trinidad & Tobago, Romario Patrice began his career at a young age, doing short YouTube videos and transitioned into film-making at a later age. Currently at 25 years, his goal is to keep pushing forward to reach the pinnacle of his career, to work with a big budget film studio while also promoting his community, culture and the traditions of Trinidad and Tobago.



### SHIVAM TEELUCKSINGH

Since 2019, Shivam Teelucksingh has helped people in the field of technology. He goes around the country doing free repairs for students and now offers free courses for people in need. He also promotes digital transformation and education, as best as he can! He was awarded an Angostura Champion Award in 2020 and is presently in the Internet Society's IGF 2022 Youth Ambassador Program Finals.

## CHAMPION DOUBLE CHACONIA AWARD - YOUTHFUL RESILIENCE (10-17)

A young person who, in the face of exceptional challenges (family circumstances, geographical location, mental and physical health), continues to make an important contribution to society or is an inspirational role model to others.



### ARISA AMELIA SAFIRA RAJAN

Arisa Rajan is a young lady who has endured a plethora of issues that have forged her into a daring and adventurous gem, despite her petit stature and depth of challenges faced. Her musical talent has shone through with multiple Awards and her passion as a Scout has brought exemplary recognition.



### DYLAN SAMPSON

Dylan Sampson was only 8 years old when an AVM (Arteriovenous Malformation) ruptured, causing severe trauma and bleeding in the left side of his brain. Having to learn to write with his other hand, endure a long period of therapy and medical attention, he has gone on to achieve, with exemption, in his scholastic and other ventures, including the steelpan.



### SIDARA AKALLOO

The name Sidara Akalloo is synonymous with resilience as the entire nation of Trinidad and Tobago has been privy to her strength, determination and courage to persevere against all odds. This is a success story that many, both young and old have been inspired by, as despite being diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at age 10, she persevered and succeeded, "attending classes with a needle in her chest and chemotherapy pumping through her veins."

## CHAMPION DOUBLE CHACONIA AWARD - YOUTHFUL RESILIENCE (18-35)

A young person who, in the face of exceptional challenges (family circumstances, geographical location, mental and physical health), continues to make an important contribution to society or is an inspirational role model to others.



### AKILAH HUGHES-PANTIN

Akilah Hughes-Pantin began a Degree in Medicine at UWI St. Augustine in 2007 but was unable to complete the Programme, due to traumatic distress caused by an accident. In 2012, she started her entrepreneurship journey with agri-businesses in Jamaica. She returned to Trinidad and continued her education, while seeking professional help for mental health issues. She enrolled in the DLAB GLOBAL offered by the Organization of American States (OAS) and an MA in Creative Design Entrepreneurship Degree at UWI. She will be awarded her Masters with Distinctions in October 2022.



### TAARIQKA KELLY

Despite struggling with depression, Taariqka Kelly has been a beacon of light in her community. In the year 2020, Taariqka experienced one of the most horrific series of events anyone can imagine. Despite this, she continues to be heavily involved in community work and charity drives, in her community.



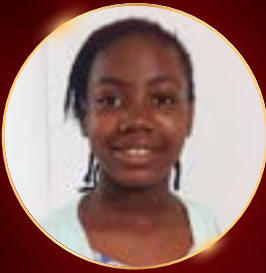
### TIAJUANA HERNANDEZ

Tiajuana Hernandez is a musician, teacher and entrepreneur battling with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Despite financial struggles, rough environmental conditions and her autoimmune illness, Tiajuana has persevered and completed her Music Degree at the University of the West Indies among other successes. As a youth ambassador for the Voice of Lupus Foundation, her resilience continues to be an inspiration to many.



## CHAMPION ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD (10-17)

A young person who has generated or created a business idea and established a business that generates income and/or creativity in the field of business.



### **ERYN BRATHWAITE**

Eryn Brathwaite, at age 10 years, is an accomplished young entrepreneur. Whilst maintaining good academic grades, she conducts research on appropriate ingredients for her soaps, to ensure compatibility to persons with sensitive skins. With support and encouragement, Eryn will be a valuable asset in the small business/ manufacturing sector of Trinidad and Tobago.



### **JAFARI GORDON**

Jafari Gordon is a remarkable young man and an extraordinary young entrepreneur. His experience and progress working in ICT ventures at Pennacool and Cariri has propelled him to assist on building the Jelani Ubi website, which is an online store selling dried marinates that focuses on local country food and flavours.



### **ROCHELLE PERSAD**

Rochelle Persad is the entrepreneur/owner of Rochelle's Sweet Treats. Rochelle's Down syndrome makes her an avid self-advocate and motivational speaker. She has participated in TV interviews, Down Syndrome Family Network Conference 2022 and is an awardee in Appreciation and Recognition for her Exceptional Achievements.

## CHAMPION ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD (18-35)

A young person who has generated or created a business idea and established a business that generates income and/or creativity in the field of business.



### **ANNEILA DAVIS**

Annelia Davis is the CEO of Annelia's Healthy Living, located in Goodwood, Tobago. She was exposed to Agriculture at a tender age which led to her pursuing a BSc in Food Science and Technology at UTT. In 2019, Annelia's final year project was selected for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual CFCS. She was astonished and driven by this accomplishment, which led her to opening her own agro-business.



### **CHRISTIAN WARD**

Christian Ward's experience in hospitality inspired him to offer consultancy services for struggling hospitality businesses, through his company 'TT Hotels and Guest House Management'. Trading as Capital Hotel and Guest House Management", he later rebranded as Kadoa Resorts and Consultancy. His business is internationally accredited by FIB USA and received the "Award of Excellence". Kadoa's first contract is with "The Colibri Inns" in Tobago.

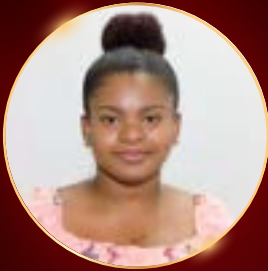


### **MATTHAUS WILFORD**

Matthauss Wilford is a 2018 graduate Doctor, who despite unemployment challenges, identified the need for a Dialysis Centre in South Trinidad. In spite of his personal hurdles, he opened Reno Pure Dialysis Centre, which provides high-level care and comprehensive treatment for CKD patients at an affordable cost. Presently Mr. Wilford's endeavour is to open another centre in Edinburg 500, Chaguanas.

## CHAMPION ENVIRONMENT AWARD (10-17)

A young person who significantly practices and advocates the ideals of environmental sustainability and preservation.



### **SAMAIYA SANCHEZ**

With disdain for plastic refuse and its damaging effects on our environment, seventeen (17) year old Samaiya Sanchez vigorously initiated projects in her community, school, and youth group partnering with some exceptional non-profit organisations, impacting beneficial shifts in eco-friendly exercises. Samaiya launched a project that resulted in the Youth Club collecting over Eleven Thousand (11 000) plastic bottles, contributing to the invention of practical items, and educating youths about better choices with biodegradable alternatives. She directed a beach clean-up exercise which helped clear debris to welcome the nesting sea turtles.



## CHAMPION ENVIRONMENT AWARD (18-35)

A young person who significantly practices and advocates the ideals of environmental sustainability and preservation.



### KATRINA KHAN-ROBERTS

Katrina Khan-Roberts has been an environmental advocate since childhood. She is knowledgeable and aware of the vulnerabilities and risks associated with living on a Small Island Developing State. She leads by example, living and advocating for sustainability in the country. She speaks and educates on recycling and waste management, water resources and everything in between.



### KHADIJA STEWART

Khadija Stewart is an enthusiastic climate specialist with a passion for inspiring behaviour change through knowledge sharing and innovative storytelling. Khadija has represented Trinidad and Tobago at numerous International events, including lending her voice, ideas, talents and stories to several initiatives worldwide with Peace Boat, Global Water Partnership, the World Youth Parliament for Water, Caribbean Climate Justice, UNESCO Caribbean, IOC-UNESCO, UNDESA and UNFCCC all focused on Sustainable Development Goals 6, 13, and 14.



### NEISHA SMITH

Neisha Smith is a pragmatic, environmentally conscious person with an organisational and grass-roots approach to local environmental matters. Using techniques gained throughout her education, her career, and taught by her resourceful grandmother has been incredibly relatable to people. Neisha volunteers her time presenting practical repurposing ideas. Neisha is the change we need to be. She is hard-working and driven, with every aspect of her life revolving around the environment.

## CHAMPION HEALTH & WELLNESS AWARD (18-35)

A young person who significantly practices and advocates the ideals of healthy living, including creativity in health and wellness.



### CARISSA NANAN

Carissa Nanan is pursuing her Master's Degree in Counselling Psychology at the University of the Southern Caribbean. In promoting mental health awareness, she has engaged in various initiatives, such as anti-bullying campaigns. She has also founded a non-profit organization called Southmind Trinidad and Tobago, which aims to break the myths about mental health and illness.



### NANDANI SAMUEL

Nandani Samuel is a Registered Dietitian under the Nutrition and Dietetics board of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as a dietitian on board at the Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago (DATT). Ms. Samuel is also a co-owner of Rainbow Nutrition and the Director of Health and Wellness of Youth Inspiration TT that offers various health courses for children.



### SAFIYYAH ISLAM

Safiyyah Islam is a Registered Dietitian on the Nutrition and Dietetics Board and the holder of a BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics and a Diploma in Institutional Community Nutrition and Dietetics. As the dietitian on the Northwest Regional Health Authority's Outreach Team and Educator with the Diabetes Association's Kids Camp, she continues to promote health and wellness nationally.

## CHAMPION LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY AWARD (10-17)

A young person who advocates, demonstrates, promotes, organizes and manages group activities that empower young persons towards youth development initiatives.



### CLADIJA CALLENDER

Cladija Callender is a current student of Holy Faith Convent, Penal and former top performer at SEA. Cladija was awarded the Spirit of the School Award at her Graduation, as she was an all-round student who contributed to both Academics and the life of the school. During her summer vacation, Cladija volunteered as an assistant at Brazil Police Youth Club. There she assisted younger students with school work and a variety of games.



### KYael SHERWYN SAMMY

Kyael Sherwyn Sammy, aged 10, is a young Acolyte in his Parish and holds leadership roles in many Ministries. He inspires other young persons to Church and community service. At age 9, he became part of an NGO - Mary and Friends, and used his talents to speak on many platforms offered by the United Nations-TT, UNICEF, and National Youth Council. Presently he is Co-Chair of the group's community project, "The Youth Project, TT", aimed at Environmental Sustainability, being overseen by the American Embassy.



### SYNDONIA MAHARAJ-ALI

Sydonia Maharaj-Ali, displayed leadership qualities at the Baal Vikaas Vihaar Chowtaal and Indian Classical Singing competition. Her leadership continued at St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando as Class Prefect, through the forms 3 - 5 and at the school Mathematics Tournament, for 2021 and 2022, which resulted in her team's 1<sup>st</sup> place success. Sydonia is presently a Tutor of the Sixth Formers Association Services.



## CHAMPION LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY AWARD (18-35)

A young person who advocates, demonstrates, promotes, organizes and manages group activities that empower young persons towards youth development initiatives.



### ALANA ALLEYNE

Alana Alleyne has 18 years' experience in youth work and championing various causes. She is a Business Educator, Personal Development Coach, Certified Financial Educator, Image Consultant, Fashion Designer, Motivational Speaker and Influencer. She is also the founder of EVOLVE360 and owner of the Kiddies Carnival Mas band 'Rainbow Funatics Entertainment'. She often volunteers with several NGO's such as the Volunteer Centre of Trinidad and Tobago- Anchor Mentor.



### MIKHAEL CAMPBELL

Mikhael Campbell is a humble young man who has been involved in National Service since the age of 12. He is currently serving as Chairman of the Tunapuna Youth Desk where he has dedicated his time to develop the youth within his community. Mikhael's goal is to help the youth discover their full potential and accomplish their goals.



### RENEE ATWELL

Renee Atwell, Attorney-at-Law and Caribbean Youth Leader with over eight years' experience in youth development and empowering young women. She is the Founder and Executive Director of a non-profit organization, Girls of Impact T&T, which provides mentorship and leadership training for young women in T&T. Having served as Trinidad and Tobago's CARICOM Youth Ambassador and Dean of the CARICOM Youth Ambassador Corps, Renee continues to influence regional youth policy and advocates for an improved youth development Caribbean regime.

## CHAMPION LEARNING AND ACADEMIA AWARD (10-17)

A young person who excelled in the field of education and has used this excellence to contribute to the overall development of young people in his/her community.



### CHADE WILLIAMS

Chade Williams is known as a "giver at heart," reflected by his generosity, volunteerism and support for community initiatives. He is an intelligent young man currently pursuing nine CSEC subjects at Northeastern College, and even completed CSEC Mathematics while in Form 3.



### SAMARA GORDON

A devout and spiritual young woman who loves volunteerism, Samara Gordon excelled at CSEC and CAPE at Holy Faith Convent, and with a deep passion for music, is currently pursuing further music qualifications at Trinity College London.



### SANJANA ROBINSON

Sanjana Robinson is a pearl from St. Augustine Girls' High School, attaining ALL A profiles in all her courses of study at CSEC and CAPE Level, including multiple top 10 CSEC merit rankings. She is kind and passionate, particularly about music, in which she has also attained Grade 5 Music Theory in ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music).

## CHAMPION LEARNING AND ACADEMIA AWARD (18-35)

A young person who excelled in the field of education and has used this excellence to contribute to the overall development of young people in his/her community.



### AJAMU CROSBY

Ajamu Crosby hails from the Beetham Gardens and achieved remarkable milestones that shatter the negative stereotypes sometimes associated with his community. He is a community-oriented, multi-talented young man who is a National Scholarship Winner, Mechanical Engineer, UWI Youth Ambassador, motivational speaker and now an author of his memoir, JAMSEFFEC. He has a mission of changing the perception of his community and producing a new image of what a Beetham Garden Resident can represent.



### KEVIN HOLDER

Kevin Holder may be described as a CARICOM man. The idea to start a student-centered blended learning school developed while Mr. Holder was pursuing his Post Graduate Diploma in Instructional Design and Technology in 2017, developing the institution in 2018, providing both face to face and online classes inclusive of morning, evening, and night schedules for learners of all needs. Since then, and with students across the English speaking Caribbean, he has successfully opened physical schools in Grenada and St Lucia, with further expansion on the horizon.



### DR. MIA GOMANDY BENJAMIN

Dr. Mia Gormandy-Benjamin is an Assistant Professor of Music (Steelpan) at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) as well as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PanNotation. She is also the Artistic Director for the world-renowned Trinidad All Stars Steel Orchestra and serves as conductor for the Orquesta Nacional de Parang de Trinidad y Tobago, the recently formed national parang orchestra. She possesses a Bachelor of Music degree (2009), a Master of Music degree (2011) in steelpan performance from Northern Illinois University (NIU). She then received a second Master of Music degree (2013) and a Doctor of Philosophy degree (2017) in ethnomusicology from Florida State University (FSU).



## CHAMPION SERVICE AND HUMANITARIANISM AWARD (10-17)

A young person who advocates, demonstrates, promotes, organizes and manages activities in the areas of volunteerism, social justice advocacy and humanitarian acts.



### DARRIELLE NARCIS

Darrielle Narcis showed interest in African drumming at age five; and at seven, she was invested as the first female Cub Scout in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Freeport Sea Scout group. She joined her brothers in the scout band and played multiple instruments; sneer drum, 2<sup>nd</sup> bass and the cymbals. She was instrumental in the Scouting for food programme; receiving and distributing to the needy.



### GABRIEL PHILIP HAMPTON

Gabriel Hampton became a Child Rights Ambassador in November 2021. His winning video and poster highlighted the Rights of the Child - right to education, food, medical care and leisure. He has since learned sign language to connect with the hearing and speech impaired. In January 2022, Gabriel launched "I Can Campaign", for persons to volunteer their skills and time to help needy children.



### SAMEER SOOKOOR

Sameer Sookoor became part of the Trinidad and Tobago Child Rights Ambassadors programme in 2019, and participated in various promotional activities aimed at preventing child abuse. He also became a child correspondent for the Inter-American Children's Institute of the Organization of American States (OAS). He has written advocacy articles on issues affecting children, and spoken for policy change at several OAS meetings.

## CHAMPION SERVICE AND HUMANITARIANISM AWARD (18-35)

A young person who advocates, demonstrates, promotes, organizes and manages activities in the areas of volunteerism, social justice advocacy and humanitarian acts.



### EVANGELINE PARDASIE

While pursuing her degree at UTT, Evangeline Pardasie's humanitarian work began in 2017 upon joining the UTT Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter. She organized numerous events and successfully hosted technical sessions that helped UTT students. In 2021, she established her registered non-profit organization - The EVA Foundation - which seeks to Empower, add Value, and help people Aspire to greatness, while providing a sustainable approach to solving some of our society's most pressing challenges.



### ORIEL SAYDEE MOHAMED

Oriel Mohamed, a 24 year old student, is a Global Ambassador and Trinidad and Tobago National Youth Advocate and Activist for social and political reform, human rights, and youth empowerment. For many years, she has engaged in community outreach, service and voluntary work in multiple fields, and has represented her region at Global Summits and Conferences across the world stage. She has ventured on mission trips across the African and Middle Eastern continents.



### TEOCAH DOVE

Social change and sustainable development is what drives Teocah Dove, who can be considered a Social Innovator, Development Strategist and Philanthropist. She also works as a pro-bono Advisor to Civil Society Organisations and engages in philanthropy, serving as a mentor to numerous young people, professionals and entrepreneurs across the region. She is also patron to social causes in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean.

## CHAMPION SOCIAL MEDIA POSITIVITY AWARD (10-17)

A young person who uses his/her social media platform to promote positive youth development in Trinidad and Tobago.



### ISRAEL WATSON

Fifteen-year-old Israel Watson of La Brea is a student of Point Fortin West Secondary, who has a passion for social media content creation. He is also the Junior President of 'No Youth Left Behind' (NYLB) - a community-based organization registered in 2012, and the Chairperson of the organization's Social Media Marketing sub-committee. He has promoted and marketed several of the organization's community events.



### MALIK SHARBODIE

Malik Sharbodie is a creative, inspirational and emerging writer and social entrepreneur. In June 2021, he showcased his prolific writing talent with his essay submission to the United Nations education drive, entitled, "COVID is No Laughing Matter". This creative expression led to interviews with several media houses, such as 95.5 FM and Hot Seat TV 868.



### SAPNA JOSEPH

Sapna Joseph uses her social media platform, Sapna Speaks on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to share information, advocate for issues affecting children, and to spread positive messages on health and wellness. She is a UNICEF Child Rights Ambassador, a U-Reporter, a Member of the National Child Policy Child Ambassador Sub-Committee since 2020 and was voted one of the top 5 Child Rights Ambassadors of the Programme's 2020 Cohort.



## CHAMPION SOCIAL MEDIA POSITIVITY AWARD (18-35)

A young person who uses his/her social media platform to promote positive youth development in Trinidad and Tobago.



### ADINAH SANDY

An avid reader from an early age and coming from a culture adamant on home-schooling, Adinah Sandy, by age 14, could be seen at the NALIS Port of Spain Library checking out books to expand her vocabulary. She eventually found her passion in photography and motivational speaking. Adinah's growth and development can be seen by consistent motivational quotes on her social media pages called #Dquotes.



### ANDRE GILES

Despite the hurdles he experienced when he sat CXC for the first time and failed all subjects, Andre Giles is today a graduate Law student, currently pursuing a Master's Degree. He formed the Andre Giles Foundation to tell his story. His first video on social media went viral and in less than 24hrs, amassed over 500,000 views combined across different platforms, with hundreds of persons regionally, embracing its positivity and inspiration.



### NECODA FRANCIS ATHERTON

Necoda Francis Atherton is an educator by profession, however, she actively pursues her passions of motivational speaking, theatre and the arts, spoken word, calypso and theology. She is a Theology and Ministry graduate, Youth Minister, and the Founder of "Where Would I be Charity Foundation".

## CHAMPION SPORT AWARD (10-17)

A young person who excels in any sporting discipline across Trinidad and Tobago, used sport to better himself/herself and has positively impacted Trinidad & Tobago.



### CHRISTOPHER RICHARDS JR

Christopher Jr Richards the 1<sup>st</sup> local young T&T golfer on the President's Cup. He placed first in a 3-day open 2022 event, held at the Pointe-a-Pierre, Tobago, Ste Madeleine and Republic Bank Juniors. In the T&T Open, he placed third, performed creditably for T&T at the Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championship and the Caribbean Amateur Golf Championship.



### NIKOLI BLACKMAN

Nikoli Blackman is a swimmer for the Marlins Swim Club. He is youth athlete for 2020/2021 for TTOC and The First Citizen Sports Foundation. His last experience was in Lima Peru at the FINA Worlds Juniors AUGUST / SEPT 2022. From February to present, Nikoli has won over 30 gold medals in local and international Competitions.



### PRIYANKA KHELLAWAN

Priyanka Khellawan, an aspiring table tennis athlete, has won many international medals for T&T national team since 2016. Her previous experience spans as captain of the Under-11 girls team in 2016, under-13 girls team in 2017, overall captain of the team in 2018. She is currently the President of the Table Tennis Club and offers training at A.S.J.A. Boy's College, San Fernando, Naparima Girls' High School.

## CHAMPION SPORT AWARD (18-35)

A young person who excels in any sporting discipline across Trinidad and Tobago, used sport to better himself/herself and has positively impacted Trinidad & Tobago.



### JEREEM RICHARDS

Jereem Richards is a T&T track and field 200m and 400m sprinter. He is a national hero who mentors and motivates other T&T athletes. He was in the 2012 IAAF World Indoor Championships as part of the T&T team that won the bronze medal in the 4x400m relay, and the gold medal in the 4x400m relay at the 2017 IAAF World Championships. In 2022 IAAF World Indoor Championships held in Belgrade, Serbia, Richards won gold in the men's 400m event, breaking T&T's national indoor record, as well as the championship record.



### KESTON JULIEN

Keston Julien is a career footballer from Gasparillo, his passion spanned from the age of 6 years. At age 17, Keston signed his first professional football contract with European Slovak-based Club AS Trencin. At age 22, Keston represented Moldovan-based Club FC Sheriff. A significant highlight of Keston's career was representing FC Sheriff and by extension Trinidad and Tobago at the UEFA Champion League in 2021.



### TENEIL VICTORIA CAMPBELL

Teneil Campbell is a cyclist with UCI Women's World Team, Team Bike Exchange-Jayco. She aspires to become a World Champion, Olympic Gold Medallist and seeks to become an inspiration for female cyclist in Trinidad and Tobago. She has endeavours toward developing a cycling programme and institution in Trinidad and Tobago.



## CHAMPION TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SKILLS AWARD (10-17)

A young person who excelled in the field of technical vocational skills training and has used this excellence to contribute to the overall development of young people in his/her community.



### CLAY JASON BALGAROO

Clay Balgaroo is the youth leader for the Pal-Let's Build it Project in Sangre Grande. He has been responsible for building many of the furniture that is displayed across Trinidad and Tobago. He encourages and teaches other youths in the area how to build and design the different items out of discarded pallets. His steadfast work in upcycling and sustainability sets him apart as a role model and example of excellence.



### KHALEEL SHIELDS

Khaleel Shields is passionate about food, cooking and entrepreneurship. Khaleel is a budding chef and entrepreneur who recently excelled in the Youth Entrepreneurship Programme held by East Port-of-Spain Development Company; and one of the youngest members of their Cooking with Confidence Workshop which he attended twice a week after school. He also has a passion for volunteerism, ICT and Coding.



### SERGIO NERO

Described as possessing "natural technical ability", it is no surprise that Sergio Nero has a love for fixing anything that is not working. Being a self-taught washing machine and small engine repairman led him to take part in a technical camp where he shone and gave support to other participants. He uses his skills to assist anyone in the village and helps with diagnosis and more. He is loved in his community for his attitude, willingness to learn and limitless potential.

## CHAMPION TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SKILLS AWARD (18-35)

A young person who excelled in the field of technical vocational skills training and has used this excellence to contribute to the overall development of young people in his/her community.



### ANEILA MAHABIR

Aneila Mahabir holds the position of Subject Matter Expert (Acting) in the NESC's School of Energy and Natural Resources and for over eight years, has focused on developing the next generation of drilling rig professionals. Her passion transcends to her students and fellow educators, making a significant impact on the future of both the local and regional petroleum industry and the broader TVET landscape.



### ENDERSON CABRERA

Anderson Cabrera is a young man described as one who "shifted the paradigm of Mechanical Technician," carving a niche in the area of mechanics and hybrid technology. Anderson is highly qualified and uses his position as a business owner to train and support other young persons, while creating employment opportunities.



### SHIVA SEEPERSAD

Shiva Seepersad is an Automotive Services Instructor at the NESC Technical Institute (since 2019) and has proven to be an excellent teacher and a wonderful asset to the Automotive Services Faculty. He has several qualifications in the area of light aircraft and automotive maintenance. Most instructively, despite the challenge posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, he was a protagonist in the transition to blended learning and contributed significantly to 70-80% pass rates during a trying time.

## CHAMPION YOUTH MENTOR AWARD

An adult whose work actively supports and encourages youth development activities and programmes that are geared towards the fulfilment of youth rights and empowerment.



### AARON CROMWELL

Aaron Cromwell is a Martial Arts 6<sup>th</sup> Dan who has trained and mentored youths to achieve their maximum potential. Through his Martial Arts school in the Borough of Point Fortin, which has grown to be the largest in the Warrior Nation franchise, he continues to contribute to the positivity and success of the youth in the community.



### KRYSTAL LASHLEY

Krystal Lashley is currently the President of the Goodwood Police Youth Club. She has spearheaded many community projects, such as 'Back to School Dives' and Care of the Elderly Programmes. She also participated in the THA's Vocation Skills Programme, where she was instrumental in encouraging other young persons to successfully complete their courses of study.



### SASCHA WILLIAMS-GODDARD

WPC Goddard is the leader of the St. Joseph Police Youth Club since 2014. She is a firm believer in exercising preventative and non-punitive measures with young persons to ensure deviation from juvenile delinquency. She encourages positive youth development, through various programmes geared towards mental health, positive character development and technical-vocational skills.



## CHAMPION YOUTH PROJECT IMPACT AWARD (10-17)

A programme or project that serves as a best practice and has demonstrated excellence in its design, implementation and impact on youth, youth issues and youth development work across Trinidad and Tobago.



### **4-H LEADERS COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

The 4-H Programme is worldwide, involving more than eighty (80) Nations. 4H Clubs encourage young people to meet and participate in group and/or individual activities, to learn skills of farming, home-making and health practices, developing at the same time their individual talents and essential life-skills. The program empowers youth to build strength of character and appreciate the environment.



### **CAN BOU PLAY FOUNDATION**

The Can Bou Play Foundation aspires to fill the gap between professional athletes and aspiring youths. The mentors use their experiences in sport as a catalyst for change amongst the disenfranchised and differently-abled youths in Trinidad and Tobago. "We trust that we will be that change that we would like to see in society."



### **FUTSAL ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

The Futsal Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FATT) is a Full-Body Member of the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association. FATT is the National Sporting Organization (NSO) for the sport of FUTSAL in the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.



## CHAMPION YOUTH PROJECT IMPACT AWARD (18-35)

A programme or project that serves as a best practice and has demonstrated excellence in its design, implementation and impact on youth, youth issues and youth development work across Trinidad and Tobago.



### MASON HALL POLICE YOUTH CLUB

In 2022, along with their Juvenile Track Classic, the Mason Hall Police Youth Club organisation won the THA Junior Heritage personality pageant, distributed monthly food hampers and currently campaigns in the Tobago Football Association League. Their initiatives include, sports, education, culture, spiritual and agricultural programmes.



### RAHUL'S CLUB HOUSE

Rahul's Club House is an Autism-friendly space, where autistic persons can engage in educational and social activities to help them develop intellectually, mentally and emotionally. The activities include art and craft, life skills, yoga, crochet, dance and social play.



### RYU DAN CONQUEROR YOUNG LEADERS

Ryu Dan Conqueror Young Leaders provide members with the tools and support structures needed to create positive futures for themselves, as they see Sport as a major avenue for breaking down social barriers. Through involvement in sports and developmental activities, they have fostered bonds of friendship and have made significant changes to the lives of others.

## CHAMPION YOUTH CAUSES AWARD (18-35)

A private entity which supports and encourages youth development in Trinidad and Tobago.



### ADVISORS NEXT DOOR LIMITED

Advisors Next Door Limited is a multidisciplinary consulting firm that delivers comprehensive and customized solutions to clients in the environmental and financial services sectors.



### DIGICEL FOUNDATION

"We focus on four pillars of strength: Education, Community Development, Special Needs, and Entrepreneurship. By activating these pillars, we sow seeds of courage, quality of life, access to educations and self-reliance. Creating sustainability through technology and experiences that make a difference, our Foundation and its partners are working to create a culture of inspiration throughout the Caribbean."



### WHYFARM

WHYFARM (We Help You-th Farm) is an NGO in Trinidad and Tobago that pioneers Agricultural Educational Entertainment (Agri-Edutainment) with a mission to promote the importance of sustainable agriculture among youth and children, build their capacity in Agricultural Entrepreneurship, and empower them to contribute to achieving global food and nutrition security by the year 2050.

## CHAMPION YOUTH GROUP AWARD (10-17)

A youth group (NGOs, CBOs, Not-for-Profit groups) that consistently encourages youth development activities and programmes, while positively impacting young persons.



### CREATE FUTURE GOOD

Create Future Good is a social enterprise with a clear purpose: "We help children realize their power". This is done by engaging children and their caregivers directly to determine their issues and design messages and interventions to result in positive social impact and behaviour change. They have connected with over 1 million people world-wide and continue to work directly with children to help them enjoy their childhood.



### NO YOUTH LEFT BEHIND

No Youth Left Behind remains committed to using all their resources to transform young individuals into patriotic and successful leaders. Their objective is building the mental capacity and emotional resilience to foster decision makers that take actions that empower their lives and build safer and sustainable communities.



### PROJECT HOPE CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Project Hope Children's Foundation is geared towards vulnerable children in the district of Nariva/ Mayaro. The Foundation has impacted over 3,000 people in the community by providing food relief, stationary supplies, clothing, educational programs, scholarships and family support. The leaders and volunteers remain committed to addressing poverty, economical challenges, illiteracy and gender-based violence amongst children in the community of Rio Claro and Mayaro.



## CHAMPION YOUTH GROUP AWARD (18-35)

A youth group (NGOs, CBOs, Not-for-Profit groups) that consistently encourages youth development activities and programmes, while positively impacting young persons.



### **AUTISM SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS NETWORK**

The Autism Siblings and Friends Network creates opportunities for those with disabilities and advocates for inclusion at all levels. This organization has already made an immense impact by bringing the topic of special needs, inclusion and disability awareness to the forefront. Presently the organization has over 350 youth volunteers.



### **MT. ST. GEORGE POLICE YOUTH CLUB**

The Mt. St. George Police Youth Club shares a passion for youth work and continues to make significant strides in youth engagement, community activism and humanitarian initiatives. They continue to be innovative and creative, notwithstanding the limitations brought about due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the Mt. St. George Police Youth Club continues to stand out throughout the country whilst being active, involved and participating in national activities.



### **THE PENAL DEBE FOUNDATION**

The Penal Debe Foundation has a mandate to impact lives through educational, cultural, social and environmental activities in and around the Penal/Debe region. This group has been creating a positive difference in the lives of many families, from Food Support to Disaster Relief; Baby Care Initiatives to Repairing/Rebuilding of Homes and Environmental Preservation.



# YoUbuntu

"I AM BECAUSE WE ARE"

## SOCIAL MEDIA CALYPSO COVER COMPETITION

**YoUbuntu** is a reflection of the word Ubuntu and its ideology, with emphasis on the Youth of Trinidad and Tobago. Ubuntu originates from the African culture and translate to **"I am because, we are"** and alludes to an individual effectively representing the peoples from whom he or she originated.

In commemoration of Trinidad and Tobago's Diamond Jubilee, YoUbuntu was hosted by the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service to allow youth, ages 12-25 years to pay tribute to our local calypso icons by doing a cover of their songs.

### 10-17 AGE GROUP WINNERS

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE  
VICTORIA MARCANO**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE  
JAYDEEN SKEETE**

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE  
JELANI FRANCIS**

### 18-25 AGE GROUP WINNERS

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE  
ABIGAIL SPRING**

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE  
JASMINE LEZAMA**

# MYDONS

NATIONAL  
*Youth* AWARDS | 2022

**The Reel: XXVI**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

### **YOUTH AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEAD PROGRAMME**



YAHP offers young nationals between 18 and 35 years, an opportunity to become '21st century agri-entrepreneurs.' Selected applicants will enroll in a full time training programme through the University of Trinidad and Tobago, Centeno, and will be awarded a Certificate of Agriculture and Agro-Processing. In the second year, participants' grades and attendance would determine if they qualify to receive a grant, starter homes and sheds to pursue their agri-business ventures.

### **NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME**

The National Leadership Training Programme (NLTP) is an initiative delivered in conjunction with the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. The target audience for this initiative is youths 16 to 35 years old from youth-led/youth serving groups and those interested in youth work. The NLTP seeks to prepare and equip with leadership and enhanced decision-making skills for the betterment of society.

### **YOUTH AGRICULTURAL SHADE HOUSE PROJECT**



Shade House is a youth-focused agricultural project designed to equip young persons ages 16 to 35 with the knowledge of Shade House Farming - intensive farming on small portions of land to produce high-value, short-term crops. This project, geared to increasing youth engagement in transforming the local agricultural sector, will also encourage participants to develop agriculture co-operatives.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the work that has been done by the Ministry in its effort to identify and award young people who have excelled in the areas of Youth Development and National Service.

It has always been the intention of this Ministry to pay commendation to our young persons who, in spite of various challenges, have risen to the call to assist in the development of our Nation.

Many of our young persons have been working tirelessly in various fields of endeavour; but this work is seldom brought to the forefront. It is therefore the intention of the Ministry to highlight these achievements so that they can serve as inspiration to others, thus fostering a Nation of motivated, committed and dedicated young people.

In closing, I wish to extend my sincerest gratitude to all members of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service for their commitment to this extraordinary experience.

I also want to especially acknowledge the untiring efforts of the National Youth Awards Committee members who have risen to the task and all contributed in producing an awards event that is worthy of emulation.

*Anthony Garcia*  
Chairman  
Youth Awards Committee

**MYDMS**

NATIONAL  
*Youth* | 2022  
AWARDS

**The Reel: XXVI**

**MYDNS**

NATIONAL  
*Youth* | 20  
AWARDS | 22

**The Reel: XXVI**

**AUTOGRAPHS**



# AUTOGRAPHS

**MYDMS**

NATIONAL  
*Youth* | 20  
AWARDS | 22

**The Reel: XXVI**

THE REPUBLIC OF  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



**YEARS OF**  
**INDEPENDENCE**

1962<sup>nd</sup> 2022

DIAMOND JUBILEE

**MYDNS**

**MYDNSTT**

