



## **SCOTIABANK (BARBADOS) LIMITED**

**May 5, 2026**

### **Young Entrepreneurs Inspired at 14th Annual \$20 Challenge Awards.**

A new generation of bold, enterprising young leaders took centre stage at the 14th Annual \$20 Challenge Awards, hosted by the Barbados Entrepreneurship Foundation (BEF), with Scotiabank as premier sponsor, under the theme *“Enterprising Minds, Bold Futures.”*

The \$20 Challenge continues to empower secondary school students with hands-on experience in building and operating real businesses, equipping them with critical life skills including communication, problem-solving, money management, and decision-making.

This year’s cohort demonstrated remarkable resilience and determination, with over 100 students completing the Challenge and developing more than 70 businesses across 15 schools. Participants progressed from early uncertainty to confidently pitching ideas, engaging customers, and delivering polished presentations, highlighting the transformative impact of experiential learning.

A new “Unlock Your Voice” initiative further strengthened participants’ confidence and public speaking skills, while expanded programme elements, including People’s Choice Awards and planned post-programme workshops and internships, deepened engagement and extended the learning journey beyond the classroom.

Scotiabank, a longstanding supporter of youth development, reaffirmed its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship among young people through active employee engagement as mentors, judges, and ambassadors.

“Programmes like the \$20 Challenge empower young people not to wait for opportunities, but to create them,” said Suzette Armoogam-Shah, Country Head, Scotiabank Barbados.

BEF reiterated its commitment to building an entrepreneurial culture in Barbados—one that equips youth with the confidence, creativity, and mindset needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.



Harrison College students Ria Batson, Justise Neuhoff, Ciara Brathwaite of the business - Beyond the Box share a light moment with Suzette Armoogam-Shah, Country Head, Scotiabank Barbados.



Suzette Armoogam-Shah, Country Head, and Ryan Carrington – Manager, Haggatt Hall Branch, Scotiabank Barbados interact with Deighton Griffith Secondary School student Aaron King and his business, Pyour Pop,



Micro Enterprise of the year Team – Queen's College Christina Branch – Teacher is recognised.



Micro Enterprise of the year Team – Queen's College Stacia Franklyn – Teacher is recognised.



Micro Enterprise of the Year:  
Christina Branch of Queen's College is awarded as the winner for her business - Segu Blends

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