

VM Foundation/British Council award next-gen social entrepreneurs

The VM Foundation, in partnership with the British Council, recently recognised the next generation of social entrepreneurs at an award ceremony held at the Pegasus Hotel in January.

The social entrepreneur awardees, all from secondary schools across Jamaica have developed creative solutions for social and environmental issues ranging from discipline in schools to environmental degradation and mental health.

St. Jago High School received two awards for their social project, a motivational audiobook, titled 'En-light-in-me,' that seeks to offer readers a respite from the adverse effects brought on by the global health crisis.

"It is great to be recognized for the hard-work we as a school put into the project," Mrs. Trecia Morgan-Brown said, teacher and programme lead at St. Jago High School.

Meanwhile, Glenmuir High School won the award for 'most scalable project' for its 'Healthy We Seh' initiative that provides students with an alternative to consumer beverages with added nutritional content. According to Nathaniel Stewart, a teacher at Glenmuir High, there is great potential to build on the project.

"We have already done some trials with shakes, but we have not yet gone into the production element," Stewart said. "We are also exploring how we can broaden our healthy lifestyle initiative by incorporating a physical exercise element of the project to get students to start focusing on keeping fit while quarantined."

Glenmuir's Fayon Smikle won the 'best video' competition for her video on making healthier food choices, an award, according to her, that was 'unexpected.'

"I am really happy that I won the competition because I never expected it," said Fayon, who is also the vice president of the Social Entrepreneurship Programme at Glenmuir High School. "I did put a lot of work into the final product, so I am truly grateful that my hard-work has been rewarded by the selection committee," she added.

That committee included Damion Campbell, Programme Manager at the British Council, who, during his address, charged the award recipients to continue to be resilient, problem solvers and team-players.

"These are some of the principles that are required to overcome day-to-day challenges in various aspects of your life," he explained. "Therefore, we must continue to entrench and practise these skills even after the programme has concluded."

Meanwhile, Assistant Vice President, VM Group Corporate Affairs and Communications, Clover Moore implored the awardees to adapt to the new requirements for the 21st century work world. "You must strive to become more inquisitive, because it is this level of curiosity that will allow you to become pioneers so that you can create enterprises that solve modern day problems," Moore said. "Also, adaptability and agility are key pillars for a successful start in the workplace."



Damion Campbell, Programme Manager - Social Enterprise and Youth Engagement, British Council Caribbean.

Full list of winners below:

- MOST SOCIAL IMPACT**
 1st place: St. Jago High School
 2nd place: Cumberland High School

- MOST SCALABLE**
 1st place: Glenmuir High School
 2nd place: St. Jago High School

- VIDEO COMPETITION**
 1st place: Fayon Smikle, Glenmuir High School
 2nd place: Jalecia Morgan, Kingston Technical High School



St Jago High won the top prize for the project with the most social impact and 2nd prize for most scalable project.



St Jago High won the top prize for the project with the most social impact and 2nd prize for most scalable project.



Cumberland High School team won 2nd prize for the project with the most social impact.



Jalecia Morgan of Kingston Technical High School.



FOUNDATION
 Improving Your Quality of Life

