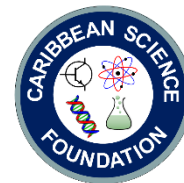


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Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Barbados and Antigua & Barbuda students dominant at inaugural Caribbean STEM Olympiads

The Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF) held the inaugural Caribbean STEM Olympiads on 20 – 22 January 2023 in a virtual format. In these Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Olympiads, individuals and teams representing educational institutions, clubs or themselves competed in several STEM events at three different age levels: Level 1 for students 12 – 15 years of age, Level 2 for students 16 – 18 years of age, and Level 3 for students 19 – 21 years of age. The events of the 2023 STEM Olympiads included: (a) Math Olympiads, (b) a Robotics Showcase and (c) Computer Coding Games. The Computer Coding Games consisted of Apps, and Websites aimed at solving one of six challenges faced by Caribbean communities (energy production and consumption, food security and food safety, non-communicable diseases, transportation, money movement, financial education, and geohazards and climate change).

A total of 215 students from 10 Caribbean countries registered for the Olympiads. After the preliminary rounds, 30 teams (98 students) made it to the finals. There were 28 finalists in the Math Olympiads, 34 in the Robotics Showcase, and 36 in the Computer Coding Games. Medal certificates were awarded in platinum, gold, silver, and bronze categories. In addition, cash prizes of US\$ 400, US\$ 300, US\$ 200 and US\$ 100 were awarded to the teams winning platinum, gold, silver and bronze medals, respectively.

The Awards and Closing Ceremony, held on Sunday 22 January 2023, revealed that Jamaica led the medal count with 7 medals, followed by Guyana with 5, Barbados with 4, Trinidad and Tobago also with 4, and Antigua and Barbuda with 3 (2 of which were gold). Noteworthy for the STEM Olympiads was the fact that females outperformed males in the total number of medals won, by approximately 5:3.

Regarding the most prestigious medals, Jamaica earned 3 platinum medals. Specifically, Ehinome Eikhmetalor who attends Champion College, but represented himself won the Level 1 Math Olympiad platinum medal; Micaela Mclean, Orvi-Ann Brown and Kenelia Bailey of the Glenmuir Math Club won the Level 3 Math Olympiad platinum medal; and Abigail Allen, Laraine Williams, Nishanae Williams, Demaria Walker and Kristian Coke of Champion College, won the Level 2 Computer Coding Games platinum medal.

From Trinidad and Tobago, Fazeel Ali, Saleem Salick and Raymond Liu of Presentation College Chaguanas won the platinum medal in the Math Level 2 Olympiad; and Sarah Sellier (on gap year) and Neysa Sylvan (University of Trinidad and Tobago) forming a private team earned the platinum medal for Level 3 Computer Coding Games.

The platinum medal for the Level 2 Robotics Showcase went to Jamani Bowen, Trevan Parris, Malik Blackman, Mystica Inniss and Jovani Gittens of Harrison College's Kolij Robotics Club (Barbados) for their clothes-folding robot.

Professor Cardinal Warde, the Interim Director of the CSF stated "I am very pleased and impressed by the high level of STEM talent in the Region! I have to wonder if I could have solved the difficult Level 3 problems in the Math Olympiads as quickly as the platinum medalists did." He went on to thank the judges, his staff, and both the Institutional and individual sponsors, and his friends and family who made financial contributions with very short notice to make the inaugural Olympiads a success.

At the awards ceremony, several students highlighted the impact on them of participating in the STEM Olympiads. Kristian Coke of Champion College, Jamaica said "I have always wanted to create video games and even started a

club at my school centred around game development, but I often encountered difficulty in mustering the motivation or direction needed to actualise my ideas. This competition provided me with an outlet to create a functioning game and hone my skills in programming and game design. For this, I am very grateful.” Among the other students who shared how much they enjoyed participating in the Olympiads was Sarah Baharally of Queen's College, Guyana who stated, “This competition was immensely ineffable, quite thrilling and euphoric!” Many students indicated they would compete again next year and encourage their friends to join.

At the closing ceremony, Mr. Julian Jordan, a member of the Board of Directors of Peloton International (one of the sponsors) delivered inspirational remarks to the contestants. Mr. Jordan explained the relevance of STEM and entrepreneurship to the founding of his company which develops software for the oil and gas industry by saying “This company was built by people like yourselves 35 years ago. Because they [the founders of the company] were STEM students, they became engineers, got their degrees and they looked for problems in the business world that they could use their technical skills for”.

In addition to Peloton International, the Institutional sponsors included Emera Caribbean, Fujitsu Caribbean, the Barbados Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology, Trident Insurance, PromoTech, and TAG software.

The Caribbean STEM Olympiads is an initiative of the CSF - a regional non-profit NGO with the mission of assisting with the development and diversification of the economies of the Caribbean Region by promoting STEM education reform and stimulating technology-based entrepreneurship. For more information on the CSF, the Caribbean STEM Olympiads and other programmes run by the CSF, please visit <https://caribbeanscience.org>.

Exhibit 1.

Photos to choose from depending on country



Neysa Sylvan (left) and Sarah Sellier (right) on an all-female team named “Hermit and Shade” from Trinidad and Tobago clinched the platinum medal in the Level 3 Computer Coding Games.



All-female team from St. Catherine Academy, Belize, named “SCA Innovators” consisting of Sapphire Jenkins, Adyson Morris, Reya Chi, Amber Gill, and Nigely Gongora, participating in the Level 2 coding Games.



“Fortes”, a platinum-winning team in the Level 2 Computer Coding Games, consisting of Abigail Allen, Laraine Williams, Nishanae Williams, Demaria Walker, and Kristian Coke of Campion College, Jamaica.



“The Hummingbirds”, an all-female team consisting of Rheanna Robinson, Alsade Daley, Gabria Gordon, Alani Brown and Aisha Stone of the Immaculate Conception High School in Jamaica, clinched the silver medal in the Level 2 Computer Coding Games.



The all-female team “Blue Flames” consisting of Gabria Gordon, Courtney-Kay White, Chelsea Rerrie, and Madison Sujamani of the Immaculate Conception High School, Jamaica, captured the gold medal in the Level 2 Robotics Showcase.



The Level 2 team from the Kolij Robotics Club of Harrison College, Barbados, consisting of Jamani Bowen, Trevan Parris, Malik Blackman, Mystica Inniss and Jovani Gittens earned the platinum medal in the Robotics Showcase.



The "Itchy Scratchers" from Queen's College, Guyana earned a silver medal in the Level 1 Computer Coding Games. The all-female team consisted of Yuki Clarke, Jayda Khan, Kyla Jordan, Sarah Baharally, and Dollyann Holder.



The Level 3 Computer Coding Games gold medalist team: Alissa Richards, Dominic Christopher, D'chaiya Emmanuel, Rianna Henningham, and Ajonte Josiah from Antigua State College.



Hailing from T. A. Marryshow Community College in Grenada, are Shemiah James, Camron Marshall, Jemund Burke, Kerlisia John and John Gilkes who received the silver medal in the Level 2 Robotics Showcase.

Exhibit 2.

Short video clips to choose from depending on country

[CSO 2023 Level 1 Math Olympiad \(for ages 12-15\)](#)

Final points are added to the board for all the Math Olympiad Level 1 teams resulting in a tie between Ehinome Ehikhametalor of Team “Infinity” from Jamaica and Saiesh Rampersad and Kaden Khan of Presentation College Chaguana in Trinidad. The tie was broken when the scores from the preliminary round were taken into consideration and Mr. Ehikhametalor was declared the winner.

[CSO 2023 Level 2 Math Olympiad \(Ages 16-18\)](#)

Sarah Sellier from Trinidad and Tobago and “EulerTide’s” Johann Baynes, also from Trinidad and Tobago share their thoughts on how they are enjoying the Level 2 Math Olympiad competition. The final winner of the competition is revealed to be Fazeel Ali, Saleem Salick and Raymond Liu from Presentation College Chaguana in Trinidad and Tobago.

[CSO 2023 Level 3 Math Olympiad \(Ages 19-21\)](#)

One of the Math Olympiad Level 3 judges, Professor Terrence Blackman, provides feedback to the Level 3 teams, Micaela Mclean, Orvi-Ann Brown and Keneilia Bailey from Jamaica’s Glenmuir High School Math Club, and Dominic Christopher and Ajonte Josiah from Antigua State College. The Game Master, Jelani Payne, also compliments the teams on a job well done.

[CSO 2023 Level 1 Coding Games \(for ages 12-15\)](#)

Jayda Khan, Sarah Baharally, Kyla Jordan, Yuki Clarke and Dollyann Holder of the “Itchy Scratchers”, a team from Queen’s College, Guyana, demonstrate their Scratch game at the Computer Coding Games Level 1 competition.

[CSO 2023 Level 2 Coding Games \(for ages 16-18\)](#)

“Fortes”, a Jamaica based team from Campion College, consisting of Abigail Allen, Laraine Williams, Nishanae Williams, Demaria Walker and Kristian Coke discussed their Level 2 Computer Coding Games project. This is followed by “Team Belize High School” consisting of Alaine Perdomo, Ashley Belgrave, Hannah Avila, Jason Zhou and William Chen also talking about their Level 2 Computer Coding Games project.

[CSO 2023 Level 3 Coding Games \(for ages 19-21\)](#)

Team “Hermit and Shade” members Sarah Sellier and Neysa Sylvan from Trinidad and Tobago talk about their Computer Coding Games Level 3 project and their past experiences with coding.

[CSO 2023 Level 1 Robotics \(for ages 12-15\)](#)

“Tweak Titans” team members, Aquila Whyte, Mahir Rajkumar, Yeshua Hutson, Nikhel Persaud and Zionara Lawrence, from Queen’s College, Guyana, field questions from the Robotics Showcase Level 1 judge, Mr. Phillip Logan. Also, the Kolij Robotics Club, consisting of Roshana Clarke, Shaxian Small, Noah Watson, Erin Browne and Jadon Sandiford, from Harrison College in Barbados, explains their robot’s design.

[CSO 2023 Level 2 Robotics \(Ages 16-18\)](#)

The members of the “Kolij Robotics Club”, Jamani Bowen, Trevan Parris, Malik Blackman, Mystica Inniss and Jovani Gittens from Harrison College, Barbados, are complimented by the Robotics Showcase Level 2 judge, Dr. Janak Sodha, after a demonstration of their robot. Also, team “Blue Flames” from Immaculate Conception High School, Jamaica, with members Gabriela Gordon, Courtney-Kay White, Chelsea Rerrie and Madison Sujanani answer questions about the code and communication method used for their robot.

[CSO 2023 Level 3 Robotics \(for ages 19-21\)](#)

Robotics Showcase Level 3 judge, Jelani Payne, encourages Emmanuel Chiddick, Jaden James, Ajonte Josiah, Jimmy Mclean and Afique Bertrand from Antigua State College not to sell themselves short after hearing the challenges and multiple challenges the team overcame to make their robot before arriving at the version they brought to the showcase.

Exhibit 3.

Results of the Caribbean STEM Olympiads: Medalists by country, event, and age level

CARIBBEAN STEM OLYMPIADS 2023: MEDALISTS BY COUNTRY AND EVENT						
Math Level 1						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Jamaica	Infinity	Ehinome Ehikhametalor	Self (Campion College)	N/A	Platinum	\$400
Trinidad and Tobago	PCC Young Bosses	Saiesh Rampersad Kaden Khan	Presentation College Chaguanas	N/A	Gold	\$300
Guyana	Toreka Persaud	Toreka Persaud	Self (Queen's College)	N/A	Silver	\$200
Guyana	Vasanna Persaud	Vasanna Persaud	Self (Queen's College)	N/A	Bronze	\$100
Math Level 2						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Trinidad and Tobago	PCC Pi-thons	Fazeel Ali Saleem Salick Raymond Liu	Presentation College Chaguanas	N/A	Platinum	\$400
Trinidad and Tobago	Sarah Sellier	Sarah Sellier	Self (on gap year)	N/A	Gold	\$300
Barbados	Random Walk	Shaunte Boxill Aian Deane- Warner Nalani Chassang	Self (Queen's College)	N/A	Silver	\$200
Barbados	SMS Cougars	Sariah McLean Ava Haynes Shakai Simpson	The St. Michael School	N/A	Bronze	\$100
Math Level 3						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Jamaica	Glenmuir High School Math Club	Micaela Mclean Orvi-Ann Brown Keneilia Bailey	Glenmuir High School	N/A	Platinum	\$400
Antigua and Barbuda	ASC Project Alpha	Dominic Christopher Ajonte Josiah	Antigua State College	N/A	Gold	\$300

Coding Games Level 1						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Guyana	The Itchy Scratchers	Jayda Khan Sarah Baharally Kyla Jordan Yuki Clarke Dollyann Holder	Queen's College	60 Hazardous Seconds	Silver	\$200
Coding Games Level 2						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Jamaica	Fortes	Abigail Allen Laraine Williams Nishanae Williams Demaria Walker Kristian Coke	Campion College	Finance Fox	Platinum	\$400
Belize	Team Belize High School	Alaine Perdomo Ashley Belgrave Hannah Avila Jason Zhou William Chen	Belize High School	XamanGo	Gold	\$300
Jamaica	The Hummingbirds	Rheanna Robinson Alsade Daley Gabria Gordon Alani Brown Aisha Stone	Immaculate Conception High School	Finance It!	Silver	\$200
Jamaica	Your Energy and You	William Wright Jayden Hinds	Manning's School	Watt Energy	Bronze	\$100
Coding Games Level 3						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Trinidad and Tobago	Hermit and Shade	Neysa Sylvan	Self (University of Trinidad and Tobago)	Movements in Motion - Creating Visibility for Caribbean Climate Efforts	Platinum	\$400
		Sarah Sellier	Self (on gap year)			
Antigua and Barbuda	ASC Project Delta	Alissa Richards Dominic Christopher D'chaiya Emmanuel Ajonte Josiah Rianna Henningham	Antigua State College	268 Ryde	Gold	\$300
Jamaica	100 Watt	Phyllisa McLarty Gabria Gordon	Self (Immaculate Conception High School)	Energized!	Silver	\$200

Robotics Showcase Level 1						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Barbados	Kolij Robotics Club	Shaxian Small Noah Watson Roshana Clarke Erin Browne Jadon Sandiford	Harrison College	Buzz - Children's Fitness Robot	Silver	\$200
Guyana	Tweak Titans	Aquila Whyte Mahir Rajkumar Yeshua Hutson Nikhel Persaud Zionara Lawrence	Queen's College	Quick-Fix	Silver	\$200
Robotics Showcase Level 2						
Country	Team Name	Team Members	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Barbados	Kolij Robotics Club	Jamani Bowen Trevan Parris Malik Blackman Mystica Inniss Jovani Gittens	Harrison College	Clothes-folding Robot	Platinum	\$400
Jamaica	Blue Flames	Gabria Gordon Courtney-Kay White Chelsea Rerrie Madison Sujanani	Immaculate Conception High School	IGL Robot	Gold	\$300
Grenada	Team Grenada	Shemiah James Camron Marshall Jemund Burke Kerlisia John John Gilkes	T. A. Marryshow Community College	Project Clean Up	Silver	\$200
Guyana	Robotastic	Lateisha McArthur Joshua McArthur Akaia Griffith Jayden Smith Raphel Shaw	Queen's College	Koker System	Bronze	\$100
Robotics Showcase Level 3						
Country	Team Name	Member	Representing	Project Title	Medal	Prize
Antigua and Barbuda	ASC Project Omega	Emmanuel Chiddick Jaden James Ajonte Josiah Jimmy Mclean Afique Bertrand	Antigua State College	A.I.D.R. – Automated Intelligent Delivery Robot	Bronze	\$100