

GRENEDED NEWS

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Thirty Eight Students In Grenada Receive GRENEDED 2013 Scholarship and Are Urged to Excel

On Thursday August 29, 2013, The Grenada Education and Development Programme, GRENEDED, provided some 41 students, each with \$700 worth of school support in the form of vouchers for books, school supplies and uniforms as well as cash, mainly for transportation and food. GRENEDED students were also attached to a mentor, and each student is to be enrolled in “GRENEDED Science”, an environmental science research project during October-November 2013. The GRENEDED student support is in its 17th year and students come from St. Andrews, St. David’s and St. Patrick’s.

Chairman of the Board, Mr. Anthony Isaac, said that the organization’s mission is to expand the pool of Grenada’s leaders by supporting mainly rural youth through their secondary school years and sometimes at tertiary level. He said that GRENEDED wants to contribute to a critical improvement to

rural households by supporting promising and ambitious students, but who need financial support.

The Chairman, a retired insurance executive, said that GRENEDED’s vision is a poverty-free, thriving and sustainable Grenada, and that coming about in part because education is used as a catalyst to improve the socio-cultural and the socio-economic situation of families.

Founder and Executive Director, Dr. Dessima Williams, just returned from a 4-year diplomatic posting abroad, wished

the students well and urged them to excel, giving their best of themselves to their families, their teachers and school, their community and to Grenada. The former university professor listed past achievers of GRENEDED’s scholarship and other programmes as including: Officer in Charge of the Grenville Branch of Grenada Public Service Co-operative Credit Union; a Grenada diplomat in Brussels; a cardiologist in the US; an SGU graduate in finance; several teachers and a young man now starting medical studies in Cuba. *Vouchers were handed out by members of the*



GRENEDED Board Chairman Anthony Isaac; Executive Director Dr. Dessima Williams; and Board Member Denis Noel with some students and parents outside Rainbow Inn, following the scholarship award, Thursday August 29, 2013.

board, including the Chair as well as Mr. Denis Noel of No-elville's Nut-Med and Ms. Gloria Thomas, a senior Social Development and Education Officer.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Grenville community including Mr. Leslie Ramdhanny of Ramdhanny and Sons, Prof. Lincoln Bernard of TAMCC and members of the media, including Mr. George Grant of Grenada Broadcast / Sundays With George Grant. Several parents, grandparents and older siblings accompanied the children.

The programme is funded via voluntary contributions. Dr. Williams has raised \$16,020.00, including from the Alexander Bodini Foundation and Drs. H and L. Loring. Long Island-based high school principal, Grenadian educator, Dr. Anthony Bridgeman has raised \$6,000.00 and the Maple Nedd Foundation based in St. Andrew's has pledged \$1,000.00.

Prior to the scholarships being given out, each student's school performance of the previous year is evaluated by GRENE D and recommendations made to the student. Last school year's top performer is a 14-year old girl, C. Joseph, now entering Form IV, who gained an 89.3% overall average and has NEVER been late to school in 3 years. Among the awardees are two brothers entering into Form II whose father is their guiding light; two brother and sister sets, one from St. Andrew's and another from St. Patrick's; and one pair of girl-twins going to Form IV who are always extremely helpful and fully supported by their mother. Glenda Williams of GRENE D (no relation to Dessima Williams) continues to lead the evaluation process.

All students receiving support from GRENE D are required to participate in a monthly self-development series. This will re-commence at the end of September and is led by Mrs. Gloria Payne-Banfield, former Cabinet Secretary and diplomat, and a cultural leader in Grenada.

The 2013-2014 academic year in Grenada begins on Monday Sep-

tember 2, 2013.

GRENE D is self-funded. Donations of any size can be sent to GRENE D by contacting Dr. Williams (dwspice@gmail.com) or Michelle Stewart at stewart.michelle@yahoo.com.



GRENE D Scholars attended a day of leadership training in 2013 with Founder / Director Dr. Dessima Williams

GRENE D Recognizes 16 Secondary School Graduates as the Organization Turns Eighteen

As it marked eighteen years of its existence, the Grenada Education and Development Programme, GRENE D, took time out to recognize sixteen recent GRENE D-sponsored graduates of secondary schools in the parishes of St. Andrew, St. David and St. Patrick. These former students had been supported by GRENE D for the full five years of their secondary school years.

Interim Chair Cosmos Joseph congratulated the students, and indicated that he saw the graduation of so many students as a welcome signal of the revitalization of an organization which he considers to be "of great value and which needs to be known and supported by many more of our people, at home and abroad", he concluded.

Minister of Education and Human Resources, Hon. Anthony Boatswain, con-

gratulated the graduates and GRENE D for this achievement, and called on the graduates, to do everything they can with the schooling they received, to improve their lives and those of other Grenadians. The Minister also called on GRENE D to continue to contribute to strengthening the educational system by helping to close the gap between

high unemployment and the prevailing skill set of graduates as well as for graduates themselves to strengthen their social skills as part of their life skills. "Personal discipline", he said, "has a lot to do in determining one's achievement".

The Minister's call was reflected in the keynote address given by Mr. Denis Noel, C.B.E., who is a GREDED board member and an agro-industrial innovator. Mr. Noel called on graduates to become innovators and entrepreneurs, thus creating new goods and services which means job creation and the strengthening of the national economy. He also encouraged the 16 grad-

uates to think outside the box and be visionaries regarding economic well-being and progress.

Eight of the graduates gave testimonials of how five years of structured mentoring, training and support from GREDED had been a catalyst to their personal self-development. Achievements included: making friend when at first being terrified coming into GREDED; developing the courage to hold heads high, aim high and strive for excellence; the ability to manage time and finances better, to speak in public more confidently and to be a better problem-solver. Several said that GREDED's financial support had

been of value to their individual family's ability to keep them in school and see them over the graduation finish line.



Dignitaries, Board, Staff and Graduates at the Award Ceremony 2014

GREDED TOP STUDENT TESTIMONIAL



My name is Charmaine Joseph I live with my mother, father and three brothers in a beautiful village, near the seashore, called Telescope. I am a fifth form student of one of the best schools in Grenada, the Grenville Secondary

School. I am fifteen years old. I have small, brown eyes and thin, dark eyelashes. I have high cheek bones and an oval-shaped face. I have short, straight black hair. I am tall, slender and beautiful. I always smile even when I am distraught. I can be described as a very confident, self-assured and intelligent person. I can also be very adventurous and spontaneous. I really like assisting people.

I attended the Stepping Stone Pre-primary School where I started to develop the intellectual aspect of my life. There I made a lot of great friends and the teachers became like family to me. Two years later, I graduated from the Stepping Stone Pre-primary School. Then I went to the St. Andrew's Methodist School to further my education. As I grew older, I started to take my education more and more serious and in this process I lost many friends but I made new friends and they were always willing to stay by my side. In primary school I had both good and bad experiences. There were times when I wanted to give up

but, my mother was always by my side, she was and still is my number one motivator, and my teachers, GREDED and family always encouraged me to work even hard because with hard work comes success.

I took part in many different academic activities in St. Andrew's Methodist School which include; mental math quiz and spelling bees. I tried to do as much schoolwork as possible, especially in grade six because I was very determined to do really good in Common Entrance Examination. My diligence and determination certainly rewarded me when I found out that I passed Common Entrance Examination and I was going to attend the Grenville Secondary School.

In 2010, I commenced to attend the Grenville Secondary School. It was there I realized that my work was "cut out" for me, as time went by finance became a complication for my mom since she was my main source of finance and she did not have a permanent job. There were times when my mom was actually working more than one job at the same time, just to make sure that my brothers and I had what we needed to go to school everyday.

One day we then heard about the Grenada Education Development Programme (GREDED). We were told that it was a programme for intelligent students who needed financial assistance. Both my big brother and I became members of GREDED, we were not only supported financially, but we were also supported emotionally and intellectually. Each member of GREDED is assigned to a mentor in which they can have one on

one conversation. My brother and I are not the only ones who have benefited, and continue to benefit, from GREDED. There are many other students who benefit from GREDED over the past few years.

Since I was approximately three years old my goal was to become a doctor in the future and GREDED has aspired me to go after my goal although there will be hard times. I have been doing extremely well in school because of GREDED's assistance and in return I don't want to disappoint them but instead I want to make them proud of me. I am doing exceptionally well in school, I have taken part in many competitions in which I have made my school known, with the help of GREDED.

I am exceedingly grateful for all the help I have acquired and continue to acquire from GREDED. It is my pleasure to be a part of GREDED. I am very thankful to Dr. Dessima Williams and everyone who aids GREDED for the continuous financial, emotional and intellectual assistance and the motivation.

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Founded in 1996 the Grenada Education and Development Programme (GRENEDE) is dedicated to Youth Empowerment, Leadership and Sustainable Development. GRENEDE work to promote sustainable economic and social development by producing educated, socially engaged citizens and leaders with an emphasis on youths. GRENEDE assist with the provision of uniforms and other necessary school supplies as well as finance for transportation, mentors for all students and Leadership training and Development sessions every month. GRENEDE does not seek to promote only academics but also to prepare them for life's many challenges.

T H E B O A R D