



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

Dear Editor / Head of Department

**Shell and NIHERST Honour Recipients of the 2025 Shell NXplorers Energy & Innovation Academic Scholarship**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago – [25<sup>th</sup> September, 2025]** – Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited in partnership with the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), proudly recognised the recipients of the 2025 **Shell NXplorers Energy & Innovation Academic Scholarship** at a special handover ceremony held.

This year, two (2) outstanding students were formally awarded scholarships in recognition of their academic achievement & commitment to pursuing Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STREAM) related disciplines, and active participation in the Shell NXplorers Programme:

- **Fariba Bhaggan** – scholarship recipient valued at **TT\$[35,000.00]**, currently pursuing undergraduate studies in Computer Science.
- **Mya Abbott** – scholarship recipient valued at **TT\$[35,000.00]**, currently pursuing undergraduate studies in Agri Food Safety & Quality Assurance.

The Shell NXplorers Programme, implemented in 18 countries around the world, is an innovative educational programme to equip young people with the tools and methodology to tackle complex and interconnected problems. This new way of thinking allows students to focus on solving problems related to the Food-Water-Energy nexus in their local context (Trinidad and Tobago).

The programme aims to build awareness, provide students with Shell's proprietary "NXthinking" tools and crucial problem-solving skills to the leaders of tomorrow. These tools are also useful in helping students in other aspects of their professional and personal lives. Students are empowered to become positive agents of change in their schools and communities.

As part of the programme's commitment to fostering education and national development, the Shell NXplorers Energy & Innovation Academic Scholarship, launched in 2023, provides financial support for tuition and other approved educational expenses to students enrolled in Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STREAM) disciplines at accredited local or regional tertiary institutions.

Recipients are also connected to mentorship and capacity-building opportunities through NIHERST and Shell's partnership.

**Speaking at the ceremony, NIHERST's Acting President, Ms. Julie David, extended heartfelt congratulations to the students.**

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National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology  
Grayson Courtyard, Lot #24 Estate Trace, Off 6th Avenue, Barataria

*"Enabling Society through Science and Innovation"*

She emphasized that at NIHERST, “we believe that innovations begin with imagination and Programmes like NXplorers don’t just prepare students for the future; they empower them to create it.

Addressing the scholarship recipients directly, Ms. David highlighted that Fariba’s pursuit of Computer Science is a gateway to digital transformation across every sector - from smarter energy systems to AI-driven public services. She also commented Mya’s focus on Agri-Food Safety and Quality Assurance noting its critical role in strengthening our food systems, protecting public health and ensuring sustainability in agriculture. Miss David underscored that these scholarships represent more than financial support; they are a vote of confidence in the potential of our youth. “It’s a signal,” she said, “that their ideas, their voices and their vision matter.”

**Candice Clarke-Salloum, Country Chair English Caribbean and Corporate Relations Head - Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited)** added:

“At Shell we’re deeply moved by the courage and determination of young people who pursue their dreams. This scholarship is a symbol of our belief in their potential and a commitment to helping them thrive. We know that behind every student’s success are families and mentors who cheer them on, guide them and never stop believing. Shell is proud to stand along those families and mentors, championing the next generation of leaders and changemakers.”

For more information about NIHERST’s programmes and the Shell NXplorers initiative, please visit [NIHERST | Shell STREAM Programme powered by NIHERST](#) or follow NIHERST on social media.

#### **Photos:**



Photo Caption: (L-R) Ms. Candice Clarke-Salloum (Country Chair English Caribbean and Corporate Relations Head - Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited), Ms. Mya Abbott (Scholarship Recipient), Ms. Fariba Bhaggan (Scholarship Recipient), Ms. Julie David (President Ag.- NIHERST).



Photo Caption: Ms. Mya Abbott (Scholarship Recipient)



Photo Caption: Ms. Fariba Bhaggan (Scholarship Recipient)

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**About the Shell STREAM Programme**

Shell Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. (STTL) has been implementing Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Math (S.T.R.E.A.M.) Programme since 2013. This national programme aims to strengthen the energy sector's talent pipeline and the country's effort at economic diversification by enhancing critical thinking, creativity and problem solving through strengthening awareness, competence and delivery of Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics within the educational system. Since 2019, NIHERST has been implementing this programme, on behalf of Shell.

The programme represents a key opportunity for informal education and hands-on learning around innovative science and technology resources. It communicates not only the fundamentals of STREAM but also how STREAM connects to the everyday and real world. This makes STREAM more relatable and inspiring, and makes the ever-important connection between science and society.

The Shell NXplorers Programme and its offspring Shell NXplorers Energy & Innovation Academic Scholarship are a part of this overarching STREAM programme.