

# Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund Incorporated



## 22nd Annual Awards & Community Service Banquet

Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> | Silver Spring Civic Center | 4 PM

# Preserving Our Caribbean Legacy



**The Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund, Inc. (CSSF, Inc.) is designed to establish and maintain a fellowship rooted in traditional and historical ,Caribbean principles of using one's skills in service to the community.**

**[www.cssfinc.org](http://www.cssfinc.org)**

The Caribbean Students Scholarship Fund, Inc., is a 501 © (3) tax deductible non-profit.

## NICOLE HERCULES | KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Nicole Hercules is a dynamic leader and changemaker in the world of soccer, with a focus on advocating for equity and building communities. She made history as the first woman to serve as the Chair of the United Soccer Coaches Black Soccer Coaches Association and continues her involvement as an advisory board member after transitioning to Chair Emeritus. Nicole also serves on the United Soccer Coaches Board of Directors, contributing to the world's largest coaching association.

Nicole's expertise and strategies have been pivotal in creating systems and infrastructure that support the development of underrepresented coaches. Her work extends beyond the U.S., as she collaborates with organizations to drive systemic change within the soccer landscape.

In addition to her work in soccer, Nicole is dedicated to giving back to her roots in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where her family founded the Forever Forward Foundation. Through this initiative, Nicole partners with both the soccer and track and field federations on the island to empower youth and foster athletic development.

Nicole is also the founder of the Rochester City Soccer League, where she serves as the President. Her leadership has been integral in building and empowering a thriving soccer community, with a focus on creating opportunities for youth.

A deeply committed person of faith, Nicole is currently a postulant for the diaconate through the Anglican/Episcopal Church, with her faith serving as the foundation of her life and work. Whether on the field, in the boardroom, or in service to her community, Nicole is dedicated to making a lasting impact locally, nationally, and globally. In 2023, the Hercules Award was named in her honor in recognition of her transformational community impact and trailblazing leadership.



## DR. ALYSSA GAMALDO-RODDY SPECIAL REMARKS



Dr. Alyssa Gamaldo is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Clemson University and affiliated with the Institute for Engaged Aging. She is a MD native with a PhD in Lifespan Developmental Psychology from North Carolina State University. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Laboratory of Behavioral Epidemiology and Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience at the National Institute on Aging. Her current research concentrates on social determinants of health and well-being in older adult populations as well as identifying sensitive measures for detecting health risks. Dr. Gamaldo is affiliated with the South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease and Research Center (SC-ADRC). On the SC-ADRC, she serves as the Director of the Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement ORE core and as a faculty team member on the Research Education Core (REC).



## **BE AN ADVOCATE**

### *Join the Club*

Become an advocate for the Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund. Join this movement of individuals who understand the importance of higher education and the financial difficulties and challenges students and families face.

Be part of a movement that makes a difference. Your generous contributions will ensure the resources necessary for our young adults to pursue a level of higher education.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

♥ Mail your tax-deductible contributions to

📍 CSSF, Inc., 2125 Countryside Drive,  
Silver Spring, MD 20905

[www.cssfinc.org](http://www.cssfinc.org)

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# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



On behalf of the Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund Inc., its Advisors, Board members, and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee, a hearty welcome.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Our elation is in your continued support, and in your presence here today.

Today's theme, ***Preserving Our Caribbean Legacy***, speaks to our strength and investment in our community. Over the years, we have invested heavily in our communities; raised our children and now our children's children right here, and those stories are now ours to tell and preserve.

Class of 2025, as you go through life you will be tasked with making decisions that may both be controversial and complicated. In those moments of decision making, first think about the impact of your decision and then reflect on these two words, *Legacy (referring to something handed down from the past, influencing the present and the future)* and *Heritage (a blessing or possession that is passed down, encompassing both material and spiritual aspects.)*

Understanding what is handed down to you and embracing who you are, gives you permission to be bold and proud of your uniqueness. Relate to your life's experiences, be the architect of your future; create a story that brings out the best in you and one that you will be proud to pass on to the next generation.

Congratulations to our class of 2025! *Denea Pascoe, Nyla Clarke, Nadir James, Kamilah Bailey and Gianna Robinson*. Continue to inspire, educate, and maintain a strong sense of community.

Sincerely,

Annette Achille, President  
Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund, Inc.

# LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR



## AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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May 23, 2025

Mrs. Annette Achille  
President  
Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee  
Caribbean Students Scholarship Fund, Inc.  
PO Box 1229  
Landover, MD 20785

Dear Mrs. Achille,

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Mission Team at our Embassy in Washington, DC, I congratulate you and the Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Caribbean Students Scholarship Fund (CSSF), and the 2025 Annual Awards and Community Service Banquet. Since the formation of the CSSF in 2003, your team has contributed immensely to advancing our national interests by *'Preserving Our Caribbean Heritage'*.

The Working Women's Committee has continued to make meaningful investments in the education of our community's youth, which have proven to be indispensable in assisting the recipients of these scholarships, all students of Caribbean descent within the DMV/Maryland area, to achieve their academic and ultimately their professional aspirations. Our Caribbean Diaspora includes the best minds and most accomplished individuals in the areas of culture and the arts, sport, politics, science and technology, education, finance, and engineering, and many others. The impact of your organization in promoting diaspora engagement and the development of the nation's young trailblazers is commendable and laudable. Therefore, the Embassy will continue to support initiatives to sustain the CSSF.

This 2025 Scholarship Awards and Community Banquet again exemplifies the commitment of the Working Women's Committee to embracing the national motto of Trinidad and Tobago, *'Together We Aspire, Together We Achieve'*. It also provides another opportunity for supporters and sponsors of the CSSF to understand the responsibility for sustaining this initiative by their fundraising and donations.

Congratulations again to you and the Working Women's Committee on your continued commitment to educational excellence for Caribbean Students and the empowerment of our Diaspora Community.

Anthony W.J. Phillips-Spencer  
Brigadier General (Ret'd.)

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# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



## Kamilah Bailey

As a first-generation Jamaican-Guyanese American, I've long been driven to build a global fashion brand that amplifies the voices and creativity of people of color. Inspired by my upbringing, shaped by the tragic loss of my brother to gun violence, and motivated by a passion for advocacy, my goal is to merge fashion and social justice, creating futuristic designs that tell stories and spark change. From early entrepreneurial ventures to internships at Baltimore Fashion Week and Doll House Boutique, I've embraced the arts as a vehicle for empowerment. Now, through my work with AMA Baltimore and my upcoming studies in International Business at George Washington University, I am building the tools to turn fashion into a force for global impact, inclusivity, and healing, one garment at a time.



## Gianna Robinson

My name is Gianna Robinson, a graduating senior at Howard University, school of Business Administration in Finance. I aspire to become a leader in real estate development, creating sustainable, affordable housing that restores dignity to underserved communities. Housing is not just about building, it is about creating spaces where people can thrive, raise families and build their futures. I want to integrate health and wellness initiatives into my developments because I understand that housing and health are deeply connected. My experiences in community service, HIV awareness, and financial literacy initiatives have shown me that the real estate industry has the power to transform lives when done with intention and care. Beyond my career, my heart remains tied to Trinidad and

Tobago, my home. Ultimately, my life's work will be about building...building communities, building opportunities and building a legacy of impact and service.

Dear CSSF Board of Directors and members of the Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee

I am still so honored that a panel of leaders in the Caribbean community chose me as a 2008 scholarship recipient. It was a huge confidence boost to know that people I look up to and admire believed my educational pursuits were a worthy investment.

Thank you and congratulations to this year's recipients and best wishes for a very successful event.

Kafi Kareem Class of 2008

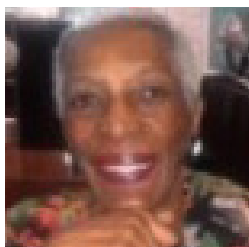
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# CSSF, INC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS



**Dr. Desiree DeFlorimonte,**  
PhD., Educator



**Pam McKee, retired**



**Dr. William "Bill" Hasson,**  
Community Advocate

## CSSF, INC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Annette Achille,**  
Chairperson



**Patricia St. Hill,**  
Vice chair



**Deanne Samuels,**  
Executive  
Director



**Joan Christian,**  
Director



**Chaya Ramsey-  
Stanislaus,**  
Community  
Engagement  
(2023 Recipient)



**Karen Barrington,**  
Financial  
Secretary

*To serve those who are searching  
for tomorrow's tomorrow ...  
destiny's child ...wondering  
through centuries of uncertainty...  
as they trans-dance on the  
precipice of nomadic fate ....  
or perhaps, faith."*

*I have supported the Caribbean  
Students' Scholarship Fund for  
almost a decade; we offer  
scholarships, as well as,  
academic advice to the next  
generation of students who  
declared their  
determination to transform  
our present dependency  
relationships.*

*"My life has been committed  
to the pursuit of freedom,  
independence and dignity. These  
scholarships are a humble  
reflection of our daily  
understanding."*

**Dr. Acklyn Lynch, Former  
Advisory Board Member**



# OUR DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS



## **The Keith and Berna Warner Scholarship**

"We recognize the invaluable contribution the CSSF, Inc. has made to the academic development of our students of Caribbean heritage and wish to continue our support on a personal level. We think it is important to show our seven grandchildren and all others of the coming generation the importance of giving back to the community, and of maintaining and strengthening their link to their heritage.

We trust that our example will inspire both scholarship recipients and their supporters to continue the tradition of giving and make it possible for an even greater number of students to benefit."

Candidates for The Keith and Berna Warner Scholarship must demonstrate need.



## **West Indian American Military Members Association Scholarship (WIAMMA)**

"One of WIAMMA's goals is to make a difference in the Caribbean community. Our relationship with the Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund, (CSSF, Inc.) program is a testament of our commitment to that cause.

Our experience in the U.S. Armed Forces has been the foundation for the success in the lives of our members, and we can only trust that our contributions to the Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund Inc. will be the foundation that impacts change in the lives of our recipients. We hope they will not only keep the American flag flying high but also those of the Caribbean as well. We look forward to staying united with the CSSF program for a very long time."

### **How to apply:**

**Complete the application form available at [www.cssfinc.org](http://www.cssfinc.org)  
Submit application along with required documentation**

**[www.cssfinc.org](http://www.cssfinc.org)**

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## ABOUT THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WORKING WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



T&T Working Women's Committee's logo was created by the late artist, Wilcox Morris. The photo shows an open hand, morphed into a dove's wing, symbolizing that it is just as rewarding to give as to receive.

The Trinidad & Tobago Working Women's Committee was organized in June 2003 to address the socio-economic issues facing Caribbean people living in the Washington metropolitan area and to become proactive citizens in our community. Understanding the importance of giving, and bearing in mind our responsibility

to nurture and prepare our youth to become contributors to society and their environment, the Caribbean Students' Scholarship Fund was launched.

## HOST COMMITTEE - MEMBERS OF THE TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WORKING WOMEN'S COMMITTEE



Annette Achille,  
president



Debbie Lara,  
vice president



Deanne Samuels,  
executive director



Patricia St. Hill



Lessa Noel  
(2003 recipient)



Gloria Terrell-Holder



Patricia Jones



Kashanna Fair  
(2013 recipient)



Janet Franklin