

JUNE 2021

CICA



CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

HIGHLIGHTING
CICA'S

*Scholarship Recipients
Class of 2021*

AWARDS



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A message of honor and history...

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United in service to the Charlotte and Caribbean communities ...

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Elexcy Morrison

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CICA awards 4 applicants of Caribbean heritage with scholarships

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Improving the quality of life in underserved communities through health care and education; Karen Dale joins CICA and awards additional scholarships to selected recipients

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Donors select awardees for book scholarships, college initiation basket and other donor-specified awards during the award event

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Celebrating their achievement

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Even in these challenges times, our donors are resolute in their commitment and make 2021 awards possible.

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With plans in the works for 2021/2022





INSIDE

CICA

**"... United in Service to
the Charlotte Community
and the Caribbean
Community Worldwide ..."**

CICA is driven by its mission to support the Charlotte and Caribbean communities. We support college students of Caribbean heritage, assist families in need; support schools impacted by disasters, and donate equipment to health centers, volunteer in our communities, celebrate our culture and Caribbean art form and much more... *just read on*

Meet our CICA members ...



President

Mylene Matthews
*St. Vincent & the
Grenadines*



Vice President

Jacklyn Michael
Antigua & Barbuda



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Dr. Leonard Huggins
St. Kitts and Nevis



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Natalie Francis-Clarke
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Asst. Secretary/
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**Dr. Monique
Constance-Huggins**
*St. Vincent & the
Grenadines*



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Decima Michael
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Carol Walters-Glenn
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Margaret Williams
*St. Vincent & the
Grenadines*



Michael Henry
Guyana



Pansie Walker
Jamaica



Shawn Clarke
Guyana



Meurene Forsythe
Grenada



**Dr. Rowena Kirby-
Straker**
*St. Vincent & the
Grenadines*



Rich Manzano
Trinidad and Tobago



Allison Burkett
Jamaica



Dr. Leslie Straker
*St. Vincent & the
Grenadines*

... and know our
Caribbean heritage



TRENDING

President's Welcome

MYLENE D. MATTHEWS-MANZANO

On behalf of the Caribbean International Cultural Association I wish to extend heartfelt greetings and well wishes to our families, friends, supporters, and our scholarship recipients. Unfortunately, we are not yet in an environment where we can meet and celebrate in person. The COVID-19 Pandemic that prevented us from hosting an in-person event in 2020 is once again having a negative impact on our Twentieth Anniversary Celebration. However, technological advances enable us to celebrate in other ways. This has proven to be a blessing in disguise as we are able to expand our audience to include local, national and international guests who are able to participate in the virtual ceremony scheduled for Saturday, June 5th, 2021 at 7 P.M. EST.

Our four amazing scholarship recipients for 2021 bring our total awards to date to be a total of sixty-six. We will be honoring and celebrating: **Ava Lee, Kennidi Cottle, Makayla Forde and Tajay Brown.**

The Karen Dale Foundation developed a partnership with CICA in 2020 and awarded three of our recipients an additional scholarship award in the amount of \$500.00 each. This year, one of our recipients, Ava Lee, who is pursuing a career in the medical field, is the benefactor of that award in the amount of \$1,500.00. We are extremely grateful and proud to be associated with this entity and look forward to other collaborations in the future.

During the month of April 2021 the island of St. Vincent experienced several volatile eruptions of the La Soufriere volcano. This has created major negative impacts and hardship on the government and people of the island. There are numerous immediate and future needs to address the economic and social impacts being experienced. Over 16,000 residents were displaced; many of whom are in shelters or residing with other relatives and friends.

(... continue on next page ...)



TRENDING

President's Welcome

(... continued from previous page ...)

With the thoughtful and generous spirit of our membership, the Caribbean International and Cultural Association, spearheaded a disaster relief initiative. Through the contributions of our members and you our supporters, we were able to address some of those needs.

We partnered with the Lions Club South in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to provide distribution of our donations to those most in need. To date, through your generous donation, we have contributed \$4,820.00 US dollars. We are still accepting donations and will be sending additional funds based on receipt of donations. You can donate via CashAPP **\$CICA2020** or mail checks or money order to CICA, P.O. Box 42089, Charlotte NC 28215.

For the past twenty-two years, CICA has been "United in Service to the Charlotte Community and the Caribbean Community Worldwide." Participating in this current relief effort, awarding scholarships to deserving High School students, and assisting families from the Levine Children's Hospital during Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays all demonstrate ways that CICA remains committed to service locally as well as internationally,

We continue to provide these scholarships and participate in disaster relief efforts through the generous donations from our dedicated supporters. On behalf of the officers and members express our gratitude to each of you for your continued dedication and support.

On behalf of the Caribbean International Cultural Association, thank you and we look forward to our future endeavors where we can once again participate in person.

May GOD continue to Bless all of you and continue to be safe!

MYLENE D. MATTHEWS-MANZANO

CICA in Service

"United in Service to the Charlotte Community and the Caribbean Community Worldwide."

The explosive eruption of the La Soufriere volcano displaced over 16,000 residents and have created untold economic and social needs on the island. Lahars and subsequent flooding exacerbated the situation.

CICA has partnered with the Lions Club South in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to help us better reach the residents on the island. To date, through your generous donation, we have sent **US\$4,820.00** to go towards the purchase of food and supplies for the people in living in the shelters.

**DONATIONS ARE STILL
NEEDED!**



CICA in Service

*"United in Service to the Charlotte Community and
the Caribbean Community Worldwide."*

**Donate through Cash App:
\$CICA2020**



EXPLOSIVE ERUPTION OF LA SOUFRIERE VOLCANO: PLEASE HELP ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES!

The **Caribbean International and Cultural Association (CICA)** of Charlotte is partnering with the **Lions Club of St. Vincent and the Grenadines** to provide much needed supplies to emergency shelters in SVG.

PLEASE DONATE to help the people of St. Vincent!

Donate through Cash App: **\$CICA2020**

For more information contact:
Dr. Monique Constance-Huggins at 412-654-9580
Mylene Matthews-Manzano at 704-965-4915 or
Lions Club SVG at
lionskingstownsvg@hotmail.com



CICA in Service

... United in Service to the Charlotte Community and the Caribbean Community Worldwide ...



CICA and its members gave over \$600 in donations to the Levine's Children's Hospital over the past year to help children and their families celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

CICA and its members also volunteered and/or donated to several community programs and efforts including:

- **Hurricane Dorian Relief Effort in the Bahamas**



Community

Keynote Speaker



ELEXCY MORRISON

Elexcy was born in Jamaica and relocated to the US at the age of 9. Elexcy grew up in Revere, Massachusetts where she attended high school. She completed her Bachelor's of Science in Sociology, Health and Human Services at Suffolk University in 1998. Elexcy relocated to South Florida in 2008 for a fresh start and sunshine.

Elexcy has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years where most of her work has been with elementary and high school students. She has worked for various organizations overseeing high school programs that connect students with local businesses to gain workplace experience as well as prepare students for higher education. Elexcy has a passion for helping young people and pushing them to succeed and advocate for themselves. She is an active member of the Black Girls RUN! and Suffolk University Alumni Group.

In her free time, Elexcy enjoys exercising, especially running and going to the beach or a local park.

Thank you so much, Elexcy for your contribution to this year's award ceremony and for all that you do to encourage our aspiring young leaders.

... CICA Members



**TAJAY
BROWN**

**CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY**

Tajay Brown graduated from Concord High School. She credits her Jamaican culture for shaping her upbringing and making her into the well-rounded person she is today. According to Tajay, there are two things from her culture that really influenced her – being motivated and working hard. She said “coming from a culture where they don’t take ‘NO’ for an answer has guided me to overcome obstacles.” One of Tajay’s teachers said that she stands above her peers in intellectual thought, creativity, and maturity. As a result of this drive, she has taken several AP and honors courses. She has participated in several extracurricular activities and clubs including Cabarrus County Boys and Girls club. She was also an outstanding player on the school’s volleyball team. Tajay will be attending Clemson University to pursue a degree in Political Science. She said that her Jamaican heritage, which has taught her to speak her mind and stand up for what is right, has played a role in her pursuing this degree. CICA wishes Tajay much success in her future endeavors.



JAMAICAN HERITAGE



**KENNIDE
COTTLE**

**NORTH CAROLINA
A&T STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Kennide Cottle graduated from South Mecklenburg High School. She is grateful for her Vincentian heritage, which has played a major role in who she has become. She said that her drive to be ambitious, determined, and hardworking came from her West Indian grandparents and parents. She said “their hard work and determination live within me and run through my blood and is something I hope to pass down to my family.” This drive to work hard is reflected in Kennide’s strong academic performance in school. Her academic course load consisted of Advance Placement, Honor level, and Dual Enrollment courses. Her drive is also reflected in her involvement in various school clubs including the Young Black Leadership Alliance. One of Kennide’s teachers said that her caliber of work was strong and above average compared to her peers. Kennide will be attending North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University where she would be majoring in mass communication and journalism. Her plan is to become a Public Relations Specialist. CICA wishes Kennide much success in her future endeavors.



**ST. VINCENT & THE
GRENADINES**



MAKAYLA FORDE

**NORTH CAROLINA
A&T UNIVERSITY**

Makayla Forde, who boasts a strong Vincentian heritage, graduated from Phillip O Berry Academy of Technology. Her Caribbean heritage has helped to shape her commitment to hard work and ambition. She said, "I grew up in a household where we strived to be our best selves. My best self leaves a mark." Makayla's art teacher said that she is an excellent student in all respects. She values strong work ethic, creativity, and a thirst for knowledge. She works relentlessly on her projects to create unique, thoughtful, and conceptual artworks." Makayla maintained a position on the honor roll throughout High School. As a well-rounded student, her counselor said that Makayla's leadership skills are above average. She participated in various clubs, honor societies, and was an athlete, she was a member of the Basketball and Track teams. Makayla will be attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to major in architectural engineer. Makayla said "as a kid, I would build objects with anything I could find, solved problems, and fix toys. The engineering dream was sparked then and never went away." She recognizes that there are few Black female engineers, and that stepping into this career will give her an opportunity to create an impact. She said "actually, I want to be remembered in history as an African American Woman who changed lives." CICA wishes Makayla much success in her future endeavors.



**ST. VINCENT & THE
GRENADINES**



AVA LEE
UNC Charlotte

Ava Lee graduated from Cox Mill High School. She is proud of her Jamaican heritage, which has instilled in her a drive for hard work, determination, and community service. According to Ava, "common elements of Jamaican culture that I have adopted are determination and a diligent work ethic." Her Chemistry teacher notes that Ava is a leader in the truest sense of the word. She is never afraid to advocate for the class as whole, whether it would be to her benefit or detriment. Her math teacher echoed that "she has that combination of a positive attitude and the belief that she can always improve that's rare in a high school student, but so essential to the learning process." Her dedication has allowed her to take many AP, honors, and dual credit classes. It has also motivated her to start a club at her High School to provide positive and motivational messages to the athletic team and others before games. Ava will be attending University of North Carolina, Charlotte to major in psychology and physical science. Following her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend medical school and focus on psychiatry. CICA wishes Ava much success.



JAMAICAN HERITAGE



Karen Dale Foundation

2021 AWARD

Through its Education and Literacy Program, the Karen Dale Foundation is partnering with the Caribbean International Cultural Association (CICA) and its Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the Charlotte, NC area, who are of Caribbean descent and planning to pursue undergraduate degrees full-time. In addition to those requirements, the Foundation's selection criteria also include students who are planning on pursuing degrees in the Health Care, Medical, or related fields. The Karen Dale Foundation is proud to award this year's scholarship:



Congrats!

AVA LEE

Psychology & Physical
Science

Foundation's Mission: Impact the lives of people in underserved communities, in the Caribbean Region and locally, by initiating, supporting and funding programs and projects that provide resources to improve the quality of health care they receive and enhance the education of their children.

ALLISON BURKETT
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
KARENDALEFOUNDATION.ORG



DONOR-SELECTIVE AWARDS

2021



BOOK SCHOLARSHIP(S)

Richard Seepersaud

Each year, Richard Seepersaud selects one or more recipients for a book scholarship ranging from 1-4 years with special honor for an overall awardee.

The overall recipient of the Seepersaud's Book Scholarship award has received as much as \$200 each year for 4 years.



ALUMNAE SCHOLARSHIP [FRESHMAN BASKET]

Decima Michael

Decima is a 2016 CICA Scholarship Recipient and is currently a CICA Board member. Decima has awarded college initiation baskets to 1-2 scholars each year.



Celebrating CICA Family 2021 College Graduates



Lenique Huggins, BSc.
DUKE UNIVERSITY

**Bachelor of Science in
Biology with Distinction**
Minors in Global Health & Chemistry

During her time at Duke, Lenique enjoyed experiential learning activities such as studying abroad in Australia, engaging in undergrad research and working as an Emergency Department Ambassador at Duke Regional Hospital. She looks forward to starting Med School in Fall 2022.



Alexis Byron, BA
NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL &
TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

**Bachelor of Arts in Speech
Pathology**

Past CICA Scholarship Recipients

2011 - 2020

2020

**Allen Hayles
Damaris Gordon
Devon Hill
Jahfari Coumarbatch
Kayla Dixon
Leilani Henry**

2019

**Dominique Mack
Malachi Rennix
Nathifa Davis
Ny'ah Cottle**

2018

**Akili Yearwood
Alexander Hayles
Allia Stafford
Helen Davis
Tavis Braithwaite**

2017

**Alexis Beverly Charis Byron
Jeremy Rivero
Zhané Adamson**

2016

**Decima Michael
Jason Samaroo
Quyen Nesbeth
Xylia Rauceo**

2015

**Denisea Dennis
Deon Damon
Nyaa Vincent
Vivica Damon**

2014

**Alyssa Maloney
Brendan Bolasingh
Courtney Walker
David Rivero
Ramona Samaroo**

2013

**Brandon Blasse
Dominique Burke**

2012

**Avery DeVon
Kent Dixon, II
Lindsay Lawson
Van Tull**

2011

**Givonne Evans
Leah Pierce
Nicholas Beach**



Past CICA Scholarship Recipients

2002 - 2010

2010

**Askia Eberhardt
Brandon Rose
Devon Patterson
Mark Seepersaud**

2009

**Jamal Dennis
Shakira Paul**

2008

**Carlita Tewari
Diavonna Billings**

2007

**AHugh Barton
Robin Coard**

2006

**Nicole Beach
Tia Haygood**

2005

**Ryan Johnson
Vanessa Alexandre**

2004

**Deona Gaskin
Gerard Gottlieb
Markia Jeter
Merissa Singh**

2003


**Krystel Alexandre
La Toya Russell**

2002

**Natalie Pottinger
Patricia Oliver**



we value our
donors...



Richard & Shakiela Seepersaud & Family
Dawne Matthews- Bernard & Family
Arjune and Radica Samaroo & Family
Julian Vantull & Family
Marvin Betaudier
Donald Rees
Hardat Singh
Deborah Yearwood
Karen Dale Foundation
Our many Donate-to-SVG Donors
CICA Members

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND
DONATIONS IN SUPPORTING CICA, OUR
MISSION AND OUR SCHOLARS



THINKING AHEAD

Upcoming Events

2021
2022

Saturday, September 25, 2021

Karen Dale Foundation

3rd Annual Caribbean Gala Fundraiser
Virtual

Saturday, May 7, 2022

CICA

**21st Annual Scholarship Awards
Dinner-Dance**

Levine Senior Center

These are unprecedented times still with some uncertainty, but we wanted to let you know that these are the dates we are planning for upcoming events in 2021/2022.