



RBC Royal Bank

# NEWS

## Presentation College, Chaguanas wins RBC Young Leaders Great Debate 2011

**Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Thursday, November 17, 2011:** Presentation College, Chaguanas is the winner of the RBC Young Leaders Great Debate 2011 following a hotly contested final face off with St. George's College, Barataria.

True to the form shown all competition long, the signature energy of finalists came to the fore as the debaters squared off over "climate change" before an audience of secondary school students and other invited guests at the André Kamperveen Hall, Centre of Excellence, Macoya. Although Presentation College would eventually win the debate final, there were no losers on the day as both teams displayed the grace and poise of champions.

From start to finish, the pace was frenetic as Joel Anderson Jones and John Russell Mohammed of Presentation College took on their worthy opponents, Adrian Edwards and Renee Atwell of St. George's College on the Motion: "Be it resolved: Climate change is a natural phenomenon and human activity is of little effect despite scientific assertions."

The barbed but good-natured debate had all the elements of a duel of champions and once again surpassed all expectations, including the judges. When the last vote was cast and the dust settled, it would be Presentation College who walked away with the coveted RBC Champions Cup and top honours.

Presentation College argued for the topic and presented a convincing argument that carefully explored the extent to which global warming was caused naturally as opposed to artificially or by humankind. Their arguments were reinforced with several cited examples including international case studies findings from the World Meteorological Association and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

St. George's countered resolutely, using clever analogies, statistics, historical evidence and classic rhetoric to first, disprove their opponents and then to emphasise their point.

This is the ninth year that RBC Royal Bank has hosted the debate, which together with the Projects component, make up their flagship Young Leaders Programme. The Young Leaders Programme has become a mainstay of the secondary schools' calendar and plays an integral role in RBC's drive toward youth empowerment in Trinidad and Tobago.

In delivering the feature remarks, Harriet Thornhill, Regional President, Personal Banking, Caribbean Banking, RBC helped to put the debates into perspective.

"Having spent endless hours researching the information relevant to intelligently debating these motions, you don't need me to stand here to rate their level of difficulty. Quite frankly, they are made up of the stuff that has been stumping world leaders for far too long. But, here you are—fourth formers who have, over the past several weeks, stepped up to share valid, thought-provoking arguments along with logical solutions in a public forum," she said.

Thornhill, who is well-versed in youth empowerment initiatives, encouraged all the participants to continue aiming for excellence in their future endeavours.

"Please keep in mind that what you do as a teen to positively motivate other teens—in an age where negativity abounds—is priceless. I commend you for being a shining light and example for others. Continue to aim high. Remain focused on your goals. Choose your friends wisely. Pursue your education. Listen to the wisdom of those who have paved the way before you, and keep a spirit of humility," she said.



**Photo Captions:**

Young Leaders Great Debate 2011 winners Presentation College triumphantly display the Champion's trophy after defeating St. George's College in the Debate finals. They are flanked by executives of Caribbean Banking, RBC: (left to right) Arvinder Bharath, Market Head – Personal Banking, RBC Royal Bank (Trinidad & Tobago) Limited, Michael Detje, Chief Financial Office, Caribbean Banking, RBC, Harriet Thornhill, Regional President - Personal Banking, Caribbean Banking, RBC and Patricia Narayansingh, Chief Administrative Officer, Caribbean Banking, RBC.