



Immediate Release

Jamaica Library Service Partners with CIBC Caribbean to Recognize Literacy Champions at 36th National Reading Competition

Kingston, Jamaica – September 11, 2024 – The 36th staging of the Jamaica Library Service’s (JLS) National Reading Competition, an initiative promoting literacy and a love for reading across the island, received significant support from CIBC Caribbean this year.

The awards ceremony was held at the Jamaica Pegasus, where CIBC Caribbean’s team proudly presented prizes to winners across four age groups: 6-8, 9-11, 15-20, and 21 and over. The event also featured local authors whose books were part of this year’s competition, along with representatives from the Ministry of Education, JLS staff, and other partners, including HEART Trust.

Annique Dawkins, Head of Corporate at CIBC Caribbean, attended the event on behalf of the bank and emphasized the importance of literacy programs. “CIBC Caribbean is proud to partner with the Jamaica Library Service to support the National Reading Competition. Encouraging literacy and a passion for reading is crucial in shaping the minds of tomorrow. We are committed to initiatives that promote education and inspire young people to embrace lifelong learning,” Dawkins said.

Maureen Thompson, Director General of the Jamaica Library Service, also expressed her appreciation for the bank’s ongoing support: “We are deeply grateful to CIBC Caribbean for their sponsorship. Their commitment to literacy and education allows us to continue fostering a love for reading among Jamaicans of all ages. The National Reading Competition not only promotes literacy but also empowers individuals to achieve their fullest potential, and we are thrilled to have CIBC Caribbean as a partner in this mission.”

The National Reading Competition engages participants from all age groups, providing a platform to showcase their reading comprehension and critical thinking skills. This long-standing competition has been instrumental in encouraging literacy, helping to shape confident and informed individuals who contribute to Jamaica’s development. The five National Champions that emerged from the competition were Athena Whyte of St. Mary, Yendi Burke of Portland, Daniel Lyle of St. Elizabeth, Fantasia Edwards of Portland, and Ugochuckwu Durueke from St. Ann.

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Captions



Ms Annique Dawkins (left), Head of Corporate, Jamaica, CIBC presents a cash prize to Yendi Burke for “Best Book Review in the 9-11 age group” from the Portland Parish Library Network at the awards ceremony for 36th staging of the Jamaica Library Service’s (JLS) National Reading Competition. CIBC Caribbean is a sponsor of the competition this year.



Ms Annique Dawkins (left), Head of Corporate, Jamaica, CIBC presents a cash prize to Fantasia Edwards for “Best Book Review in the 15-20 age group” from the Portland Parish Library Network the awards ceremony for 36th staging of the Jamaica Library Service’s (JLS) National Reading Competition. CIBC Caribbean is a sponsor of the competition this year.



(L-R) Yendi Burke, 9-11 National Champion; Alkanah Rhule, Author of the title: *King Mirodas of Boar Piece*; Earl Moxam, Author of the Book: *Vantage Point Jamaica: A Reporter's Chronicle*; Ugochukwu Durueke 21 and over National Champion; Marline Stephenson Dalley, Author of *Dog Tales* and Athena Whyte, 6-8 National Champion posed for a photo-op at the Authors' Corner the awards ceremony for 36th staging of the Jamaica Library Service's (JLS) National Reading Competition. All the mentioned authors' titles were used in the finals of the 2024 National Reading Competition.

CIBC Caribbean

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