

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John's College triumphs in RBC's Young Leaders Program

School earns \$15,000 to execute project proposal

NASSAU, May 28, 2025 — St. John's College underground water purification system emerged victorious in the inaugural RBC Young Leaders 2025 program. Their compelling pitch earned the school the top prize of \$15,000 to bring their project to life.

The winning project addressed the need for clean, purified water, serving both the school and wider community, all while maintaining an eco-friendly approach. Recognizing water as a fundamental necessity, the six-member St. John's College team aspires to enhance access to this vital resource for all who need it through their sustainable design.

Temple Christian School's self-sustaining greenhouse equipped with a drip irrigation sprinkler system captured second place securing \$10,000, while C.I. Gibson Senior High School took third place, with a prize of \$5,000, for their composting technology aerated static pile (ASP) system.

Young Leaders is RBC's flagship youth development program that demonstrates the Bank's commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders for a stronger Caribbean. This is the first time the regional initiative is being held in The Bahamas.

Five schools participated in the program, launched back in February. The three-month program challenged the students to develop a viable project plan that promotes environmental and social benefits that align with the theme '*Sustainable Future*.' The students were also able to acquire the skills to manage their projects and deliver presentations, learn financial literacy, time management and enhance their environmental awareness.

RBC's Managing Director and Vice President, Personal Banking, The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos, Ericka Rolle applauded the Young Leaders for their efforts, emphasizing that the future belongs to those who dare to dream, innovate, and act.

"Our Young Leaders have shown that they are ready to lead the charge," Rolle said.

"They have demonstrated that with determination, creativity, and a heart full of purpose, they can turn ideas into impactful solutions for their communities and beyond." She continued, "We are confident that the Young Leaders program can drive real impact in communities and help prepare our youth to lead a stronger Bahamas and Caribbean. I am extremely proud of what has been accomplished and what we are celebrating today."

Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, the Hon. Mario Bowleg along with the Head of the Division of Youth, Sandena Neely were also in attendance at the closing to congratulate the Young Leaders, highlighting the ministry's support of the program.

Environmental and sustainability advocate Amber Turner was the keynote speaker and emphasized the transformative nature of the Young Leaders program.

"This year's theme of Sustainable Future isn't just a buzz word or a class topic. It's a challenge to look beyond the short term, to imagine and build out solutions that outlast us," Turner said.

"Sustainability is about justice, fairness and ensuring future generations inherit a world that is healthy, abundant and full of opportunity. This leadership starts with you; you're not just inheriting this planet, you're shaping what comes next," she added.

St. John's also swept the special prizes for Best Team Written Proposal; Best Team Oral Presentation and Most Innovative Proposal. Ashleigh Knowles from Temple Christian won the Best Individual Presenter award.

Popular comedian and influencer Das Quay served as the event's dynamic host.

PHOTO CAPTIONS



The winners of the 2025 RBC Young Leaders program from St. John's College, accept their trophy and top prize of \$15,000. Pictured from left to right are: Gabrielle Burke, Student; Leigha Forbes, Student; Justice Hall, Student; Ericka Rolle, RBC's Managing Director and Vice President, The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos; Joelle Barrett, Teacher; Hon. Mario Bowleg, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture; Liam Smith, Student; Anthony Saunders, Student; Franklyn Russell Jr., Student.



The students of Temple Christian show off their digital deposit of \$10,000 in recognition of earning second place in the 2025 RBC Young Leaders program.



Third place winners in this year's RBC Young Leaders program was C.I. Gibson Senior High School, who walked away with \$5,000.



Environmental and sustainability advocate Amber Turner delivers the keynote address.



Popular comedian and event host Das Quay got the participants engaged and excited.



Young Leader Rianna Evans from C.V. Bethel Senior High School addresses the audience.

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