

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RBC's Young Leaders Program rewards sustainable solutions

Schools earn funds and skills to execute project proposals

CAYMAN, June 3, 2025 — Clifton Hunter High School's, "Plastic-to-Purpose" proposal took top honours in the inaugural RBC Young Leaders 2025 program.

Their innovative pitch to transform garbage destined plastic bottles into polo-shirts earned the school the top prize of KYD 15,000 to bring their project to life.

Second place went to St. Ignatius Catholic School with their "Cayman Kind Future" proposal that focused on growing plants and composting canteen food waste, which won KYD 10,000. Rounding out the top three was John Gray High School's, "The Future is Bright - Biodiversity and Green Spaces," proposal, which took home the third-place prize of KYD 5,000.

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. The regional initiative, which originated in Trinidad and Tobago, was held for the first time this year in the Cayman Islands as well as The Bahamas.

Six schools took part in the program, which was 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.

Premier, The Hon. Andre Ebanks, attended the ceremony and was joined by several other members of Parliament, along with Chris Duggan, RBC's Head of Caribbean Banking, to support the students at the event.

Special prizes were also awarded: Most Innovative and Best Written Presentation went to Clifton Hunter, while St. Ignatius was awarded Best Oral Presentation. Zara Majid of Cayman International School (CIS) took home the outstanding speaker award.

RBC's Area Vice President, Personal & Private Banking and Country Head, Cayman, Khadene Lobban applauded the Young Leaders for their efforts, emphasizing how inspired she felt to the depth of ideas students presented first-hand.

"I had the honour of participating as a judge and I can tell you I was completely impressed by the ingenuity, resourcefulness and creativity of all the participating schools and the resulting proposals," Lobban shared.

"We saw some bold approaches that incorporated financial literacy, project management and presentation skills all with the goal of inspiring and encouraging sustainability practices, ESG and environmental sustainability." She went on to say, "by equipping our Caymanian youth with the knowledge and skills to engage in sustainable practices, we can promote awareness and action that leads to meaningful, lasting change in our communities."

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