



The Eric Williams Memorial Collection

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Eric Williams Memorial Collection Sponsors 2016 Regional 'School Bags' Essay Competition

Port of Spain, TRINIDAD and TOBAGO (November 21, 2016). The Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives & Museum (EWMC) at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad and Tobago, announces this year's "Eric Williams 'School Bags' Essay Competition."

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Throughout his life, Dr. Eric Williams, noted scholar/historian and the first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, gave special emphasis to learning. "To educate is to emancipate." On August 30, 1962, the eve of his country's Independence from Britain, he exhorted:

"You, the children, yours is the great responsibility to educate your parents, teach them to live together in harmony...To your tender and loving hands, the future of the Nation is entrusted. In your innocent hearts, the pride of the Nation is enshrined. On your scholastic development, the salvation of the Nation is dependent...you carry the future of Trinidad and Tobago in your school bags."

Since 2016 marks the 43rd anniversary of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), students in 17 of the former and current British-colonized territories are being asked to discuss the future of one of its principal tenets – the free flow of citizens within the Community – and to prepare an address to CARICOM Heads of Government on the subject. Recently and in this context, there have been significant tensions between several countries encompassing the alliance.

The contest has been offered to all Lower and Upper Sixth Form (CAPE or equivalent) students in: Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos – some 177 schools. It is being held from November 2016 through April 30, 2017 (*revised dates*). Winners will be announced on May 31, 2017.

The first prize winner will receive a four-day trip for two to Trinidad and Tobago with airfare, hotel accommodations and per diem allowance; a tour of The Eric Williams Memorial Collection and University of the West Indies campus; a US \$1000 educational voucher; courtesy calls on the President of Trinidad and Tobago and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; a tour of Parliament; a set of Eric Williams' books, a Digicel DL smart phone; an interview on UWI TV; and a framed certificate. In the event of a Trinidad winner, a trip to another Caribbean territory will be substituted, as well as appropriate tours.

The winning essay will also be published in CARICOM's newsletter, Miami-Dade County schools newsletter; Trinidad Express newspaper; and UWI's *Pelican* magazine.

Patrons of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection's 'School Bags' Essay Competition are: Banwari Experience; Caribbean Airlines; Caribbean Development Bank; CARICOM; Digicel Trinidad & Tobago, Ltd.; Hyatt Regency, Trinidad; Journal of African American History; LIAT (1974) Ltd.; Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Scrip-J Printers; Trinidad Express newspaper; UNESCO, Trinidad and Tobago; University of the West Indies.

The Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives & Museum was inaugurated by former **US Secretary of State Colin Powell** in 1998, and named to **UNESCO's** prestigious *Memory of the World Register* in 1999.

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