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For Students from St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Fuelled by Opportunity: Real Stories, Lasting Impact

In this edition of the Island Scholars Newsletter, we spotlight Shanka, Algee, and Atika—three recipients whose scholarship journeys reflect perseverance, purpose, and the power of second chances. From classrooms to clinics, their stories remind us that when financial barriers are lifted, dreams take flight and communities are transformed.



Algee King-Providence

When Algee King-Providence received the news that she had been awarded a scholarship from the Island Scholars Programme, it felt like a divine breakthrough.

"It was definitely an answered prayer," she reflects. "It felt like a door had just opened for me—one that would lead to new opportunities and growth." For this determined scholar, that door led to far more than just academic success—it opened the way to purpose, personal resilience, and an ever-growing dream.

Now pursuing a master's degree in Forensic Psychology while also running her own luxury tea business, Algee credits the Island Scholars Programme as the launchpad for everything she's currently accomplishing. "The scholarship made higher education more accessible and gave me the confidence to dream big and follow through," she shares. "It wasn't just a financial boost—it was a foundation."

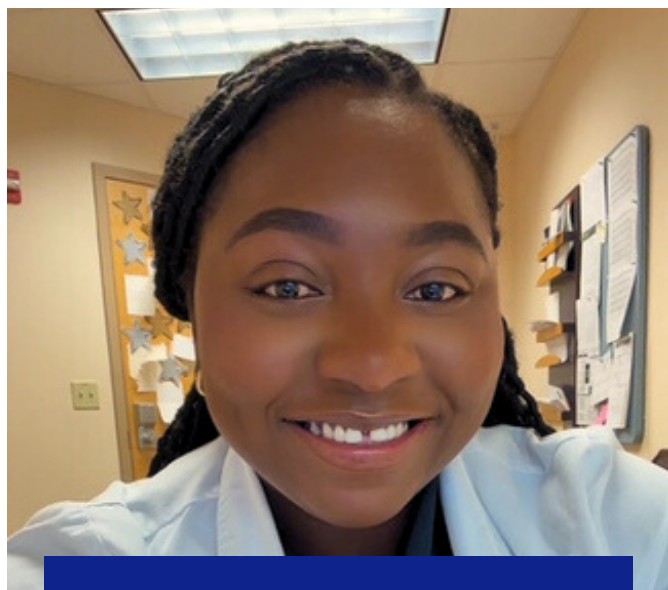
Balancing work, school, and home life proved challenging, with tuition costs adding significant pressure. But the scholarship came as both a relief and a reminder. "It helped me greatly in the financial regard, but also emotionally. The support from Island Scholars reminded me that I had earned my place and that I wasn't alone. That reassurance helped me stay grounded and resilient."

Algee's long-term goal is to become a PhD Psychologist. And while she continues to work toward that vision, she's already putting her knowledge to use—not only in her studies, but in her everyday life and in how she supports others around her.

"To the Island Scholars Organisation and sponsors, thank you," she said. "You didn't just fund an education—you helped build a future".



Congratulations to Dr. Ariel Gibson, one of our first Island Scholars, on receiving the National Youth Award for Health and Wellbeing Excellence. Your commitment to care and community continues to inspire us all.



Shanka Edwards

For Shanka Edwards, the path to becoming a physician was far from straightforward. What is typically a four-year academic journey took her six years, shaped by setbacks and financial challenges. Yet, hers is a story defined by perseverance and resilience.

It took three attempts before she successfully matched into a residency programme in the United States. Through each hurdle, it was her determination—and the unwavering support of those around her—that kept her moving forward.

The Island Scholars Programme played a vital role in her journey, offering more than just financial assistance. “Mr Ron Rose played a pivotal role,” she said. “Not only by easing the financial burden but also by introducing me to his network of professionals, which proved invaluable in my pursuit of a family medicine residency.”

Like many aspiring medical professionals, Shanka encountered a number of unexpected expenses on the road to earning her degree. While preparing to relocate to the United States for clinical rotations, she came across the Island Scholars scholarship. Despite not initially meeting all the criteria, she applied—and was deeply grateful when Mr Rose reached out to inform her of her selection. Today, Shanka proudly serves as a first-year family medicine resident in the United States. She credits the Island Scholars Programme as a cornerstone of her success, a source of both opportunity and encouragement during some of her most defining moments.



Atika Franklyn

It was 8:19 p.m. on the 10th of August, 2020, when Atika Franklyn’s life changed with the subject line “Scholarship Award.” Nervous but hopeful, she opened the email that would lift the financial burden threatening her dreams of higher education.

The words “Congratulations on your award of scholarship” sparked tears, disbelief, and deep gratitude.

For this now-proud fifth grade teacher and school leader, the Island Scholars Scholarship was more than financial support—it became a source of motivation.

“It gave me that extra boost each semester, reminding me that I already had one part covered. I just had to keep going,” Atika said.

Despite the common challenges of undergraduate life and the pressure of tuition fees, she pressed forward—fueled by the opportunity and support she had been given. Today, in her classroom and through leadership roles in her school’s management, graduation and fundraising committees, she brings the same discipline, proactiveness, and tenacity that got her through university.

Her journey is a testament to the impact of investing in promise and potential—and how a single opportunity can change not just one life, but the many lives a teacher touches.

Over 90% of your donation goes directly to universities for tuition and housing—making an immediate difference in the lives of Island Scholars students.

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