



NIHERST launches 2016 NASA International Internship (I²) Program



The U.S. Embassy to Trinidad and Tobago has helped NIHERST to initiate and execute this opportunity.

L-R: Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mr. Amroodeen Ali; past intern Inzamam Rahaman; Mr. Dexter Payne, Chief of Economic-Political Section at the U.S. Embassy to TT; Jason Renwick and Ag. President of NIHERST, Ms. Joycelyn Lee Young.

In October 2015, NIHERST announced the third cycle of the NASA I² Program. Having already afforded four outstanding T&T students this prestigious opportunity at the NASA Ames Research Centre in California, USA, the program allows two students each year to live and undertake research in Silicon Valley for several months.

At the formal launch of the 2016 program, Mr. Amroodeen Ali, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education expressed his enthusiasm for the programme as he delivered the feature address on behalf of the Honourable Anthony Garcia, Minister of Education. Mr. Ali described the launch as "most timely," explaining that "as a nation as we strive to do more to develop the capabilities of our students and highlight their accomplishments. Opportunities like these serve to reassure all citizens that we do have the capacity and the ability to work alongside the best and the brightest that the world has to offer."

Two past interns, Jason Renwick and Inzamam Rahaman, spoke of their transformative experiences. Renwick, who was invited by his department to return to the centre to continue his research, shared insight from his work on the prediction of failure in electronic devices. Rahaman gave an exciting account of writing JAVA coding for geospatial applications such as World Wind which allows NASA or members of the public a rich 3D visual zoom into any place on Earth.

Ms. Joycelyn Lee Young, Ag. President at NIHERST, shared the philosophy behind NIHERST's many experiential STEM education projects. "A brighter future" she shared, "will continue to elude us if we do not harness science, technology, engineering and math - STEM". She proposed these as "the foundation of human advancement, serving the basic human instinct of inquiry into what is, why, how and what it can be."

The launch of the 2016 cycle continues this unique educational opportunity for enhancing students' knowledge of STEM, developing their skills in research at the frontiers of science, and enabling future collaborations in science and technology.

Scheduled internship period: 6 June -12 August, 2016

Application deadline: 31 December 2015.



2015 Ames student honouree, Jason Renwick shares his experiences.



Guests from the educational community, ministries and embassies applaud the presentations by past interns.

