



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release

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National Youth Essay Competition promoting Caribbean American Heritage and Awareness

Ft. Lauderdale, FL – April 17, 2017 - - The Institute of Caribbean Studies' ("ICS") National Commemorative Committee announces its eleventh annual National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. In observance of this, Transforming America Through Interaction ("TATI"), Inc. presents the annual Caribbean American Youth Essay Competition. This competition is geared toward High School students at the 11th and 12th grade level. *(Please see release attached).*

"Every year we look forward to continuing our mission of finding ways keep the children of the Caribbean-American Diaspora immersed in their culture and heritage," says Tanya Ragbeer, founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of TATI, Inc. and ICS Liaison. "These are tomorrow's leaders, and having a sense of identity is important to building self esteem and cultural pride."

TATI, Inc. was formed out of the tragic loss of the organization's founder and Chair, Tanya Ragbeer's daughter Tatiana McIntosh, in an auto accident in 2007. It is the mission of TATI, INC. to unite, educate and mentor youth; to merge cultures, instill strong moral values, personal identities and healthy communities; and to bridge social, cultural and generational gaps to develop Caribbean American pride and a solid foundation for a brighter tomorrow.

To learn more about Transforming America Through Interaction ("TATI"), Inc., visit their website at www.taticaribbean.org, or call 954-895-8384.

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Caribbean American Heritage Youth Essay Competition

The Institute of Caribbean Studies announces the eleventh annual National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. In observance of this, the following competition presented by Transforming America Through Interaction ("TATI), Inc., is designed to align with the historic passage of a Congressional Resolution declaring June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

This year's essay title presented by TATI, Inc. is: **"If you could go back in history and be anywhere in the Caribbean, when would you choose, where would you be, and why?"**

The competition is open to 11th and 12th grade students who reside in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties and who are of Caribbean heritage as defined by the competition rules. **The closing date for the competition is Tuesday, May 31, 2017**. Information about the Institute and national Caribbean-American Heritage month activities may be obtained at www.icsdc.org; information about TATI, Inc. can be obtained at www.taticaribbean.org.

Essay Competition Rules (*please read carefully*):

1. The essay competition is open to 11th and 12th grade students who reside in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties and were either born in the Caribbean and/or have at least one parent or guardian who was born in the Caribbean.
2. Entries must be submitted as an individual effort, and must be **original unpublished** work. Essays **should not** be concurrently submitted for other competitions. Only one essay will be accepted from each author. Entries in this essay competition must be titled **"If you could go back in history and be anywhere in the Caribbean, when would you choose, where would you be, and why?"**
3. While the content of the essay is of primary concern, proper grammar and spelling will also be factors in the judging.
4. The essays should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words, typewritten, double-spaced, 8 ½" by 11" (letter-size) paper with all pages numbered. Margins must be 1 inch. The absolute minimum or maximum number of words must be observed.
5. The essay must be written in English and all entries must include a **bibliography**.
6. Entries that do not comply with any of the competition rules will be disqualified. A separate entry form and cover sheet with the following details **must** be included: essay title, writer's name, sex, grade and word count. **Neither** writer's name, **nor** the writer's country of Caribbean heritage should appear in the main essay or on the cover sheet.
7. The editorial board of TATI, Inc. reserves the right to edit essays selected for publication. All essays become the property of the TATI, Inc. and will not be returned.
8. The essays will be assessed in confidence by an independent panel of judges. No appeals will be entertained. Results of the local competition will be announced during Caribbean American Heritage Month, by **June 12, 2017**.
9. Prizes* will be awarded for first, second and third place entries. Fourth and fifth place entries will be recognized with an honorable mention award. All awards and recognition will be solely at the discretion of the judging panel.
10. Award winners will be informed by mail and appropriate presentations of prizes* made.

***Prizes: 1st place: \$500.00; 2nd place: \$250.00; 3rd place: \$100.00**

Essays should be mailed, or emailed in MS Word format to attn: Student Affairs Director, TATI, Inc. Entries must be submitted no later than May 31, 2017.

Contact: Student Affairs Director, TATI, Inc.
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