

2021 Governor-General's Diaspora  
**Achievement Awards for Excellence**



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On **June 16, 2021** at **2:20 PM**  
at the **Virtual Jamaica Diaspora**  
**Sustainability Symposium**

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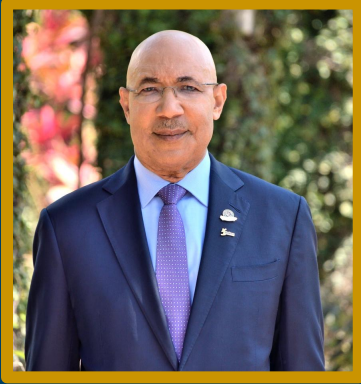
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## Sponsors



## His Excellency The Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J, Governor-General of Jamaica

My Fellow Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora, greetings. The GGAA joins with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) to recognise Jamaicans who are giving exceptional service in the Diaspora and in Jamaica. The Governor-General's Diaspora Achievement Awards was established in 2008 to recognize excellence among persons 18-35 years old and over 35 years. This year's virtual event is featured as part of the main activities of the 9th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Symposium under the theme "Jamaica and the Diaspora: Stronger Together for a Sustainable Future".

As we navigate these challenging COVID-19 times, I wish to recognise the invaluable contribution and sacrifice of our people in the Diaspora who are supporting their local communities and in Jamaica. We are one people who remain connected even when divided by the ocean. Just recently, the Governor-General's Programme for Excellence received a donation of 70 tablet devices from Jamaicans in New York to assist students whose access to education is being challenged by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In a similar manner, some past students of St. Mary High School, living in America, donated over 60 computers to their alma mater's e-learning centre that was recently ravaged by fire.

The Governor-General's Achievement Awards Programme provides a platform for these unsung heroes to be recognised and have their stories pivot a wave of inspiration across Jamaica and the Diaspora. Since 2008, nearly 50 Jamaicans have received these prestigious Awards in the Diaspora regions of the United States of America, Canada, and the United Kingdom. It is traditional that I personally present these awards to the selected recipients during our Diaspora week of activities. I thank the High Commissioners and Ambassador who will deputize for me this year in making the presentation of awards to recipients in the respective regions.

Today we pay special tribute to these recipients for their dedicated service; many of whom have been on the frontline during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Congratulations on your award and I hope that you will use this platform to strengthen your service. I encourage you to be guided by the words of our national pledge as you continue to:

*"... stand up for Justice, Brotherhood and Peace, working diligently and creatively, thinking generously and honestly, so that Jamaica may, under God, increase in beauty, fellowship and prosperity, and play her part in advancing the welfare of the whole human race."*

Thank you; and God bless you all.



## Mr. Abraham D. Simmonds

National Coordinator, The GGPE

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to this year's awardees of the Governor-General's Diaspora Achievement Awards for Excellence. As National Coordinator of the Governor-General's Programme for Excellence (GGPE), it gives me great pleasure to welcome you into a growing network of inspiring change makers spread across Jamaica and the world. This year, our programme celebrates thirty (30) years of excellence, and today's presentation is just one of a few activities we have in the pipeline to celebrate this incredible milestone.

By virtue of your award, you have become an extended member of our GGPE family, but I would like to use this opportunity to introduce you to the 'I Believe' initiative, a social programme that focuses on using what is right with Jamaica to fix what is wrong with Jamaica. We continue to use this as a platform to mobilise resources for areas of family, youth and educational development. You can always visit our website at [ggpe.org.jm](http://ggpe.org.jm) to learn more about this initiative and ways you can contribute to this much needed programme.

As we recognise this year's awardees, I want to reflect on the words of one of the awardee from Canada, Mr. Dave D'Oyen who said: *"Excellence means knowing there is better and striving for it; aiming for the ceiling and breaking through it. If the ceiling should be raised, we will rise to the occasion."*



## His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, CD

High Commissioner for Jamaica to the UK

It is with much delight and a deep sense of pride that I offer warm congratulations to Bishop Llewellyn Graham and Mr. Amani Simpson, the United Kingdom's 2021 recipients of the Governor-General's Diaspora Achievement Awards for Excellence. This award which was created in 2008 is presented to recognise and show appreciation for Jamaicans and persons of Jamaican heritage in the Diaspora who have positively contributed to the development of

their communities. In this time of a global pandemic it is right and fitting that this year the awards have a special focus of members of the Diaspora who work on the frontline in combatting the repercussions of COVID-19. Both recipients are outstanding representatives of the Jamaican-UK community. Without a doubt, today marks a proud moment, not only for the recipients but for the entire Jamaican community here in the United Kingdom, and it is my hope that the high mark you have set will go on to greater heights as you rise to concur the next challenge.

I am therefore proud to present these awards to the recipients on behalf of His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, The Governor-General of Jamaica.





## Her Excellency Sharon J. Miller

High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada

It is my pleasure to participate in this award ceremony; and I must commend Their Excellencies and the team at King's House for ensuring that in spite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, recognition of excellence in our daily interaction is given prominence. Over the years, it is clear to see that for many members of the Jamaican Diaspora, absence from home has truly allowed the heart to grow fonder. While distinguishing themselves in many fields of endeavours, they have given this small but mighty nation an oversized footprint on the global stage.

Importantly, they have contributed significantly to the growth and development of their homeland in addition to that of their adopted country. I extend heartiest congratulations to the recipients of the Governor-General's Awards for Excellence. Considering the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the toll it has taken on our lives and the increased demands on frontline workers, it is fitting that they are the focus of this year's awards. I am pleased at the recognition given to two outstanding members from Canada who have shown their commitment to advancing the welfare of others. Dr. Sylvanus Thompson and Mr. Dave D'Oyen have used, effectively, their platforms and are examples to be followed. I look forward to presenting the awards on behalf of His Excellency, the Governor-General of Jamaica. I commend them for their selflessness and wish for them nuff success in their future endeavours. Continue to be a beacon for succeeding generations.



## Her Excellency Audrey Marks

Ambassador of Jamaica to the USA

I am delighted to join you on this special occasion to pay tribute to some of our outstanding Diasporans who have made remarkable contributions in their respective fields of endeavour, in their communities here in the United States, and more importantly, to various sectors of Jamaica's development. The fact that many of you have not severed ties with your homeland and continue to devote your time and energy to your fellow citizens, notwithstanding the distance and time away from the land of your birth or heritage, always evokes pride in me.

On behalf of the Government and People of Jamaica, I take this opportunity to convey heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support for our national development efforts. I am pleased to note that Dr. Trudy Hall and Ms. Cassandra Campbell, represent thousands of Jamaicans who are essentially "unsung heroes", giving sacrificially of their time, energy and resources towards the betterment of the lives of others at home and abroad. It therefore gives me great pleasure to congratulate them on their awards. In light of the virtual format of this year's Diaspora engagement, I am honoured to present the awards to this year's recipients on behalf of His Excellency the Governor-General at a later date.

# Event Programme

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**National Anthem**

**Opening Remarks**

**Ms. Brittany Brown**  
Master of Ceremony

**Remarks**

**His Excellency The Most Honourable  
Sir Patrick Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KStJ,**  
Governor-General of Jamaica

**Remarks**

**Mr. Abraham D. Simmonds**  
National Coordinator, The GGPE

*\*\* Announcement of Awardees – United Kingdom \*\**

**Remarks**

**His Excellency Seth George Ramocan, CD**  
High Commissioner for Jamaica to the  
United Kingdom

*\*\* Announcement of Awardees – Canada \*\**

**Remarks**

**Her Excellency Sharon J. Miller**  
High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada

*\*\* Announcement of Awardees – United States of America \*\**

**Remarks**

**Her Excellency Audrey Marks**  
Ambassador of Jamaica to the  
United States of America

**Performance**

**“My Land”**  
Danielle Brown & Stephen Shaw-Naar

**Closing Remarks**

**Ms. Brittany Brown**



## Mr. Amani Simpson

Under 35 Category | United Kingdom

Mr. Amani Simpson inherited and exemplifies the resilience and determination of the Jamaican people. He is an award-winning creative director, entrepreneur & youth coach, who uses his unique and inspiring story to reach audiences who are often underserved youth. In 2011, Mr. Simpson was stabbed seven times; a near-death experience that changed his life completely and gave rise to his advocacy and renewed sense of faith and spirituality. He produced a short film in 2019 called "Amani", to share this experience which

has since received almost four million views on YouTube, propelling his work as a youth speaker across the United Kingdom. His partnership with the Mayor of London on an anti-crime campaign and his undeniable creativity has made him an influencer. In 2020, he used this leverage to spread hope and encouragement through an online campaign called "Our Lockdown", designed to support young people affected by difficult circumstances, further heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many speak of Mr. Simpson's humility and his unwavering willingness to reach and guide young people. His story of triumph over adversity is an echo in the bones of those with similar experiences and a guiding light for those most vulnerable.



## Bishop Llewellyn Graham

Over 35 Category | United Kingdom

Bishop Llewellyn Graham is a renowned religious leader, social entrepreneur, public servant and son of Somerset District in St. Thomas, Jamaica. At the prime of his career, Bishop coordinated a range of social care services to residents of Wolverhampton in the West Midlands, England. His passion and dedicated service are admired by many and well represented through his years of work within the African Caribbean Community in the UK.

As the Executive Director for the Wolverhampton African Caribbean Development Agency, Bishop Graham led advocacy and training sessions while offering development advice to the organisation's membership of black-owned businesses, voluntary organisations and churches. By 1989, Bishop Graham had become the Chief Executive Officer for the Nehemiah United Churches Housing Association – an organisation providing good and affordable housing to members of the African Caribbean Communities in Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Under his leadership, the organisation has raised over £37 million in private financing and in 1997, the organisation received the Gleaner and Jamaica National Group's Honour Award.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Bishop Graham led a dedicated team of frontline workers in the delivery of exemplary service to some of the most vulnerable members of the Jamaican-Diaspora Community. With over 35 years of dedicated service to underserved communities and the Jamaican Diaspora, Bishop Llewellyn Graham, has built a strong legacy of quality service above self.



## Mr. Dave D'Oyen

Under 35 Category | Canada

Mr. Dave D'Oyen, a human rights advocate and youth leader, and son of St. Catherine credits his humble beginnings for shaping who he has become. He has a passion for driving positive systemic change from his home country of Jamaica to Canada where he pursued post-secondary studies at McGill University. Here he was a member of the Joint Board Senate Subcommittee on Race and Ethnic Relations and the Joint Board Senate Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities.

He is currently a Leading Social Justice Fellow at the University of Toronto. His work in recent years is built on a commitment to advancing change with and for those most in need, evidenced by his volunteering with various institutions and groups such as the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and the Refugee Jobs Agenda Roundtable. Notably, Mr. D'Oyen was a member of Toronto's Police and Community Engagement Review Advisory Committee which was tasked with implementing recommendations to improve the delivery of bias-free policing.

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Mr. D'Oyen organised and hosted a discussion with the first Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto, to engage with the Black community considering that the Black community is disproportionately affected. He is a leader of high integrity and special personal character, and embraces a mindset that is open to growth. These qualities make him a stalwart among his peers and a beacon of inspiration in Jamaica.



## Dr. Sylvanus Thompson

Over 35 Category | Canada

Dr. Sylvanus Thompson is a Fellow of the Canadian Health Service Research Foundation and prolific public health expert who has made evidence-based approaches a central theme of his career. He was educated at the West Indies School of Public Health in Jamaica in 1976, and later the Ryerson University, the University of Guelph and the University of Berkley, where he completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health Administration in 2004.

He is now the Chief Executive Officer of Dr. T Food Safety Consulting Services; and continues to serve the Jamaican community in Canada as an active member of the Jamaican Canadian Association. Adept at implementation science and research, Dr. Thompson has played a leading role in the design and rollout of several programs across the world that focus on overall public health, food safety and quality assurance practices. Even after moving to Canada, he remained committed to building the resilience of the public health response in Jamaica. He played a pivotal role in mobilising resources and technical assistance in Jamaica's fight against the Chikungunya virus, Zika virus and hand foot and mouth disease outbreaks. More recently, Dr. Thompson was actively involved in several COVID-19 related research studies and outreach programs that provided tailored support to Canadian-Jamaicans and broader cohorts of African Canadians who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Through his efforts, infrared thermometers were donated to the Ministry of Health for routine monitoring of passengers on arrival at the major airports in Jamaica.





## Ms. Cassandra Campbell

Under 35 Category | United States of America

Miss Cassandra Campbell demonstrates what her peers describe as an unfounded enthusiasm to support initiatives that invariably lead her back to her roots in Jamaica. In the different spaces she imbues, she displays unbelievable passion in supporting Jamaica and by extension the Caribbean, through leveraging the resources available to her via renown partners in the United States such as Facebook, where she is now a Program Manager.

Miss Campbell is a proud graduate of Virginia State University and boasts both a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Economics. Her intellect, creativity and impeccable professionalism have afforded her an extensive track record in branding and campaign management, which also saw her working in the prestigious White House during President Obama's tenure.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, during Summer 2020, Miss Campbell led Facebook's first Messenger Bootcamp and Hackathon, and advocated for the company's ongoing Online Hackathons series to be sponsored in Jamaica and the Caribbean. Her desire to improve the region's economic outcomes has helped Computer Science students in Kingston, giving them greater exposure to Facebook's technology, programming, and resources. Additionally, she has worked intimately in bringing to life several projects including a technology bootcamp for Jamaican university students, a marketing webinar for Jamaican-owned small businesses in Atlanta coupled with the unrelenting support she gave to the technology start-up ecosystem in Jamaica.



## Dr. Trudy Hall

Over 35 Category | United States of America

Dr. Trudy Hall is a clinician who embodies a love for humanity, mirrored in the care she affords to the patients she meets in her medical practice. With over 20 years experience, Dr. Hall bodes a track record of impeccable service to healthcare in the United States, where she dons many leadership roles and medical directorships. She has an affinity for public health promotion and thrust for policy development, affording her a platform to address disparities in healthcare.

In 1991, she was conferred Doctor of Medicine from the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Since then she has provided service to her community in her demanding and coveted roles as Chief Resident in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute in Edison, New Jersey, Commissioner on the Health Services and Cost Review Commission, President of Maryland State National Medical Association, Vice President of Medical Affairs and Interim President for UM Laurel Regional Hospital as well as Chief Medical Officer for University of Maryland Medical System's Chronic Care and Rehabilitation hospital.

Recently, in response to the surge of cases arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Hall became responsible for the 145-Bed Covid Alternative Care Site, for the state of Maryland, where she also caters to the behavioral health needs of Covid positive patients. This has positioned her as a well sought out speaker for mentorship programs, numerous health care topics and Covid-19 pandemic education.

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