

A MICONIAN FROM ST. THOMAS AWARDED FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS



"Do it with thy might"

Mico's Motto



The Mico
University College

"I am the hope and the dream of a slave."



Patricia C. Edwards, Ph.D., is one of the recipients of The Mico University College 185th Anniversary Award for her leadership, contribution to education, community involvement, and philanthropy.

"Mico University College, founded in 1836, is the oldest teacher-training institution in the Western Hemisphere. At the time of its founding it was among the four teacher training institutions and hundreds of elementary schools that were established in British Colonies by the Lady Mico Charity."

Dr. Edwards was born in Duckenfield, St. Thomas, to

parents Adelaide Elizabeth Bignall and Malton Lunova Edwards. She attended Duckenfield Primary School, Happy Grove High School in Hectors River, Portland, and later matriculated at the Mico University College in Kingston, Jamaica.

Prior to migrating to Canada, she taught at St. Hugh's High School in Kingston. She holds a Ph.D. and M.Phil. from Walden, and a MA and BA from York University in Canada. She is currently a Professor of Social Sciences at Monroe College, Bronx, New York, and is one of the founding members of The St. Thomas Renaissance Foundation.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ST. THOMAS

As a proponent of the improvement in rural education, she is the Founder and Director of the Eastern St. Thomas A.E. Bignall Academic Competitions. Students from the eight participating primary schools (including Duckenfield Primary, Golden Grove Primary, Amity Hall Primary, and Dalvey Primary) compete in the areas of mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, and essay writing. The winners are awarded monetary prizes and are later eligible for post-secondary financial assistance upon gaining acceptance into a post-secondary institution.

The objective of these competitions is to help improve the 21st century skills that students need. As well, the competitions try to get students to think of their future goals from an early age. Each December, students meet at one of the primary schools in the area to participate in the competitions. Because the competitions are done by using exam format and because they follow the primary school syllabus, they now unintentionally function as a practice for the PEP (formerly GSAT) exam.

To date, over Ja\$4.0 mil has been awarded in prizes and scholarships.

TESTIMONIALS

"A.E. Bignall Academic Competition has fostered a competitive spirit in the students ... motivates them to do better ... bolster preparation for the exit exam ... and has been the only consistent avenue that rewards students with a monetary prize for their academic achievements ..."

Kerry Reynolds, Teacher: Amity Hall Primary and Infant School

"I think this is an excellent opportunity for students to practice critical thinking. It prepares them for what to expect at the secondary level."

Rushana Wilson, Past Student: Golden Grove Primary and Infant School

"The competition has fostered a level of cohesiveness among students from other schools ... creates friendships and partnerships ... gives students a feel of what an external examination would be like ..."

Marjorie Harris, Guidance Counselor: Duckenfield Primary School

