



Caribbean Diaspora for Science, Technology & Innovation

New England

Promoting Science and Technology for Caribbean Youth

2014 Year-End Update

Dear CADSTI-New England Members, Friends and Supporters,

We at CADSTI-New England (CADSTI-NE) are excited to share our 2014 progress and 2015 plans with you.

First and foremost, thank you for all of your support and participation in 2014! Your support enabled CADSTI-NE to make valuable contributions to the Caribbean in 2014, and continues to be critical for maximizing our impact on promoting science and technology for Caribbean youth. 2014 was an extremely exciting and productive year for CADSTI-NE. Our 2014 progress included:

- CADSTI-New England officially incorporated in April 2014
- Directors appointed: Cardinal Warde, Dinah Sah and Tony Rossomando
- Officers appointed: Dinah Sah – President; Paul McLean – Vice President; Tony Rossomando – Treasurer; Richard Fauconier – Secretary
- Bank account opened
- By-laws and Conflict of Interest Policy put in-place
- Non-profit 501 (c) (3) status received from the IRS in December 2014, retroactive to incorporation
- Initial fund-raising effort held, generating approximately \$9,404 in donations
- Student Internship Program launched with 4 student interns, in collaboration with the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF)
- Website launched (see www.cadsti-ne.org) recently, with links to membership and donations
- 4 CADSTI-NE meetings held at MIT - in February, April, June and September
- Weekly Sunday morning calls initiated with a small working group that planned and implemented the above activities

With the start of 2015, we are looking forward to more progress towards ‘Promoting Science and Technology for Caribbean Youth’. We have opened the application process for the 2015 Student Internship Program. With the funds we have raised, we will be able to provide support to successful candidates. So far, for 2015, we have confirmed internship slots at Synageva in the Boston area, Genesis Engineering Solutions in Washington D.C., LIME Cable & Wireless in Barbados and Jamaica, and Foursquare Rum Distillery in Barbados.

We look forward to seeing you at the next CADSTI-NE meeting at MIT in the coming 2-3 months – please look for an email announcing the meeting.

We very much hope that you will help us make 2015 an exciting and productive year for CADSTI-NE. Please join CADSTI-NE if you have not already (<http://www.cadsti-ne.org/membership.html>), and consider making a tax-deductible donation in 2015 (<http://www.cadsti-ne.org/donations.html>). As always, we welcome your ideas on how CADSTI-NE can further promote science and technology for Caribbean youth and expand the donor base for sustainable programs. Please also help us spread the word, by sharing this correspondence with friends and family, and encouraging them to join CADSTI-NE by going to the membership page at www.cadsti-ne.org.

Wishing you a healthy, happy and successful 2015!

Dinah Sah, PhD
President, CADSTI-NE
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Student Internship Program

The Student Internship Program, launched in 2014 by the Caribbean Diaspora for Science, Technology and Innovation-New England, Inc. (CADSTI-NE, see www.cadsti-ne.org) in collaboration with the Caribbean Science Foundation (see www.caribbeanscience.org), facilitates internships for Caribbean post-secondary or tertiary students at U.S. biotech and high tech companies and laboratories, as well as at companies in the Caribbean. These internships are approximately 1 – 3 months in duration, and give the students first-hand working experience to see how Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) are applied to research and development. By immersing students in such an environment, CADSTI-NE hopes to increase the low numbers of Caribbean students pursuing advanced degrees in science and engineering. The long-term goal is to stimulate more technology-based entrepreneurship within the Caribbean, in order to help to diversify the economies of the region and raise the standard of living of the people.

Specifically, the internships at companies provide an opportunity for students to:

- See the diverse career paths available in that industry
- Learn new laboratory techniques and skills
- Observe how equipment is operated, maintained, and controlled
- Network with individuals associated with that industry
- Observe the operations and infrastructure of a company

2014 Internships

In 2014, CADSTI-NE facilitated 4 internships for students from the Caribbean, including 1 internship at Synageva BioPharma* (<http://www.synageva.com/>) - a large biotech company in the Boston area, 2 internships at Foursquare Rum Distillery in Barbados, and 1 internship at a Boston University biology research laboratory. Students in the biology/biotechnology internships observed and also carried out experimental techniques such as PCR, plasmid preparation, mutagenesis, genotyping, cell culture, transfection, SDS-PAGE, Western blot, Q-TOF LC/MS, HPLC, and capillary isoelectric focusing. Students in the Foursquare Rum Distillery internships observed systems operators in the control room, chemists conducting quality control tests in process and on the final product, and electricians and mechanical engineers servicing machinery such as the compressor, boiler and pumps. Thus, the interns observed the practical applications of biology, chemistry, physics, math, computer science, and engineering to discovering, developing and manufacturing products. Importantly, the students were exposed to the broad range of career opportunities possible with a degree in one of the STEM disciplines.

“My internship was eye-opening. I got to perform a whole lot of protein biochemistry lab procedures including SDS-PAGE and Capillary Isoelectric Focusing”—Candice, 2014 summer intern and SPISE graduate.

2015 Internships

CADSTI-NE is facilitating student internships in 2015 during the months of June – August, including internships at:

- Synageva BioPharma (<http://www.synageva.com/>) in the Boston area - biotechnology/biology
- Genesis Engineering Solutions (<http://www.genesisesi.com/>) in Washington D.C. (female student only) – high tech/ engineering
- LIME Cable & Wireless in Barbados and Jamaica – high tech/ engineering
- Foursquare Rum Distillery in Barbados – biology/chemistry/engineering

As in 2014, transcripts and essays are required. Interviews may also be required. Applicants must be graduates of the Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE) and at least 18 years of age. For the internships in the U.S., applicants must also be either: (i) eligible for a J-1 intern Visa, and be enrolled in a post-secondary degree academic program in the Caribbean or have graduated within the past 12 months from such a program, (ii) enrolled in a U.S. college on an F-1 Visa and eligible for an OPT Visa to cover the internship period, or (iii) have a valid U.S. passport.

The exact dates of each internship will depend on the particular student and host company, but are anticipated to comprise approximately 1-3 months during the June-August 2015 timeframe. LIME Cable & Wireless internships may be extended after the summer for students taking a gap year.

Travel costs to and from the internship, and J-1 Visa-associated fees will be provided. Other expenses may also be covered.

Previous CADSTI-CSF interns are not eligible to apply for 2015 internships.

The deadline for submission will be March 15, 2015, 11:59 pm EST. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

CADSTI-NE will notify applicants by March 23, 2015 of interviews that may be required for certain internships. To select the student interns, the CADSTI-NE Admissions Committee ranks the students according to the student internship program criteria. Selected students are then matched to the available internships. CADSTI-NE Admissions Committee members are not permitted to review applications of students from countries with which they have affiliations or for whom they personally know family members.

All applicants will be notified of decisions in April 2015.

Please see www.cadsti-ne.org for more details, or contact CADSTI-NE [info@cadsti-ne.org] for further information.