

Full Biographies – HERizon: Celebrating CARICOM Women in STEAM

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Ms. Jasmin Harris

I'm Jasmin Harris, a communications strategist passionate about shaping narratives that inspire, inform, and connect. I am the Senior Public Relations and Corporate Communications Manager at One Communications, leading strategic initiatives that fuse innovation with meaningful engagement. With over six years of experience in the telecoms and technology industry, I've built a career rooted in impact, empathy, and excellence.

My professional journey began in law as a paralegal, but my true calling emerged in storytelling and advocacy. I've since worked in public and private sectors, including the

Ministry of Social Protection, where I led public relations efforts focused on social equity. Over the years at One, I've held roles spanning Employee Experience Communication and Corporate PR, and in 2022, I was proud to be recognised as Manager of the Year.

I'm also the founder of hART Public Affairs, a communications consultancy where I use my expertise to craft content, shape narratives, and amplify voices for mission-driven clients. From brand strategy to storytelling, I help organisations communicate with clarity and purpose across all channels.

In 2025, I was appointed Director of Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility on the Board of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Guyana (WCCIG). In this role, I advocate for women in business and assist with strategic outreach, partnerships, and storytelling initiatives to elevate women-led enterprises and influence gender-equitable policies.

Additionally, I serve on the Corporate Social Responsibility Board of CANTO, the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations. Through this platform, I contribute to shaping regional CSR strategies, with a focus on digital inclusion, education, and community empowerment.

In addition to my corporate and entrepreneurial work, I'm deeply committed to my church community. I recognized a gap in how we evangelised and began creating modern, compelling content that has significantly enhanced the way we promote the gospel. By integrating strategic communication into faith-based outreach, I've helped make spiritual messages more engaging and accessible for wider audiences.

I am pursuing a Master's in Strategic Communication at the University of Guyana and hold certifications from IE Business School in branding, marketing strategy, and finance. As a proud woman in STEAM, I remain dedicated to bridging the digital and gender divide across the Caribbean. Whether working with brands, churches, or communities, I believe storytelling is a transformative tool—and I'm committed to using my platform to empower, uplift, and inspire the next generation.

Mrs. Rachel Renie-Gonzales

Rachel Renie-Gonzales is an e-commerce agri-entrepreneur who has leveraged online platforms to revolutionize food distribution in Trinidad and Tobago. She has created a farm-to-table value chain with the laudable mission of enhancing farmers' livelihoods, reducing food waste and improving consumer choice.

Renie-Gonzales co-founded and launched the 'D Market Movers' website in 2009, focused on sourcing fresh, local produce for online ordering. The business was the first in Trinidad and Tobago to use an online e-commerce platform to sell local produce and locally-made products. It has since expanded to over 300 farmers (and artisans) with a customer base of over 10,000 online shoppers.

Over the past 16 years, Renie-Gonzales has increasingly used data-driven systems to tailor her services to consumer needs. In 2022, the business celebrated selling over a million pounds of food since inception.

Through the D Market Movers Group, farmers are supported and trained in areas of pre- and post-harvest handling, climate resilient strategies, digitization/mechanization and capacity support such as applying for grants or financing opportunities. She believes that by lending technical, strategic and industrial support, farmers can produce optimal output, which, in turn, maintains her supply chains.

With growth of over 30% per year, Renie-Gonzales has also established several other agri businesses including Farm and Function, which offers locally manufactured and processed frozen fruits that are distributed in T&T, Barbados, and Dominica. The brand's aim is "to preserve the Caribbean way of life naturally in order to achieve food security for farmers, producers and consumers within the Caribbean."

Other businesses include a click-and-collect physical grocery store with a smoothie & salad bar, a food design studio specialized in building global brands through a Caribbean lens by providing branding, packaging design and marketing solutions for local and regional food businesses; she also hosts a roaming, farm-to-table dining experience utilizing 95% local inputs in every meal.

She promotes technology as a tool for stimulating local and regional agriculture and was a feature speaker at the TEDx Port of Spain Women 2023 event where she shared her story of entrepreneurial inception and discussed how food shapes our lives. She has been a speaker on both Regional & Global stages as well as consults with international aid Organizations.

Since 2023, she has encouraged young people to embrace technology, as a mentor and Director at the Youth Business of Trinidad and Tobago. Her accolades include an Ernst &

Young Emerging Entrepreneur award, presented to her and business partner David Thomas in 2016.

Most recently, for forging a path that leads to enhanced Caribbean food security and enduring in the face of significant adversity, Rachel Renie-Gonzales is the 2025 Anthony Sabga Caribbean Laureate for Entrepreneurship.

Ms. Gabrielle Gay

Ms. Gabrielle Gay is a prolific Education Futurist, Thought Leader, Speaker, and the Founder of the Erline Bradshaw Foundation. The Erline Bradshaw Foundation is the #1 Education Foundation of its kind in Barbados, and is home to the Caribbean's first, largest and most globally awarded Education Programmes of their kind - reaching over 10 million + Leaders, students and professionals worldwide in Law, Literacy and STEM.

She holds many prestigious leadership positions in Education regionally and globally. Gabrielle is a LinkedIn Top Voice for Leadership: which prestigiously honors the top 5% of expert Impact Leaders on the global platform. She currently serves as the Sustainable Development Champion for Education and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Prime Minister's Office of the Government of Barbados, and has worked in multiple leadership roles as The United Nations Youth Advisory Group Alumni for Barbados and the OECS, Queens Commonwealth Trust Young Leader, Strategic Advisor to Caribbean Regional Youth Council, and the United Nations Asia AIS Forum Ambassador for Barbados.

Ms. Gay is an Education revolutionary:

She created and implemented the globally awarded Gabrielle Gay Award for Excellence in Reading and Mentorship Programme at just thirteen years old: and The Femme Lex Cohort,: the first, most awarded, and highest rated literacy, legal, politics and STEM mentorship programs of their kind respectively, in the Caribbean and globally. These programmes reach over 10 million+ professionals and students in 104+ countries worldwide: and provide tutelage, mentorship and internship opportunities for youth, business leaders and young women in Literacy, Eco-Technology Justice and Financial Technology Regulatory Compliance.

Gabrielle's influence extends to social media. She is one of the most followed Youth Leaders in the Caribbean Americas, reaching over 1 million people on her social media platforms; and through her Foundation's work in Education, she is a sterling example of positive representation, and a perpetual force for good.

Dr. Letetia Addison

Dr. Letetia (*pronounced Le-tee-seeya*) Addison is an accomplished lecturer, researcher, and statistician with over 15 years of experience teaching Mathematics and Statistics courses across faculties at The University of the West Indies (UWI). She holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics, an M.Phil. in Statistics, and a Certificate in University Teaching and Learning. As a Project Officer at the University Office of Planning, she also leads data-driven projects that support strategic planning and institutional research. As an avid researcher, she applies data-driven solutions to real-world challenges, with a focus on climate resilience and higher education. She led her team to first place in various competitions including COP29's global AI Innovation Challenge 2024 and the OECS Growth and Resilience Climate Data Challenge 2022.

Letetia has also received several prestigious awards, including the UWI/Guardian Premium Teaching Award 2024 and is a Senior Fellow of Advance HE, recognizing her leadership in higher education. She gained global recognition as a Women in Data Science Ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago and was shortlisted for *Nature's Inspiring Women in Science Outreach Award* (2024). A passionate advocate for gender diversity in STEM, Letetia mentors the next generation, including women and girls, while increasing data literacy opportunities for everyone, including underserved groups across the globe. Dr. Addison is excited to share her journey.

Constentina Hamilton-Mckenzie

Constentina Hamilton-Mckenzie is the Founder and Executive Director of Proserpina AgTech, a business dedicated to improving the profitability of farming through the use of agribusiness strategies, green technology, and renewable energy. She holds a Bachelors of Science with a double major in Agribusiness and Environmental Resource Management from the University of the West Indies along with several certifications in agricultural production. Constentina formed the company in 2016 in Freeport, Grand Bahama with the dedication to “revolutionize, reform and reconstruct farming”.

Her career started in 2013 working as an Assistant Farm Manager in the public sector starting initiatives such as the Associated Farmers Program at the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI). Later she moved into the private sector of agriculture opening Proserpina AgTech which won a start-up grant in 2017 from the Grand Bahama Port Authority for her Farm Box design to begin to tackle food insecurity and food desserts throughout the country.

Ms Marsha-Gay Robinson

Ms Marsha-Gay Robinson is an Information Professional with over seventeen years of experience working in several special libraries. Marsha-Gay is a Jamaican national and currently serves as the Deputy Programme Manager, Information and Knowledge Management at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana. Her academic background includes a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica, providing her with a strong foundation in library science and a comprehensive understanding of current and emerging digital resources. As an information professional, Marsha-Gay is also proficient in managing and utilizing various Library Management System (LMS) platforms such as Koha for cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, and reporting. Her commitment to the field extends to her role as an Executive Board member of the Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) 2025-2027. Her research, evidenced by publications such as "Continuing professional development and special librarians in Jamaica" and "Skills and qualifications for the special library environment in Jamaica: a job advertisement analysis" (both in Library Management), alongside her co-authored work on the initial library response to COVID-19 in the LIAJA Journal, highlights her commitment to advancing the profession in the digital age.

Ms Farnaz Baksh

Farnaz Baksh is a roboticist and researcher specialising in human-robot interaction and social robotics. She is currently a Junior Research Fellow (PhD candidate) in Computer Engineering at the University of Tartu, Estonia, where she also earned her MSc in Robotics. Her doctoral research in social-educational robotics focuses on designing open, adaptable, and ethically responsible robotic companions to support students.

Originally from Guyana, Farnaz holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the University of Guyana, where she also founded the University of Guyana Robotics Club. She played a pivotal role in promoting STEM education across the country, serving as Team Manager and Mentor for Guyana's national robotics teams in 2017 and 2018.

In addition to her research, Farnaz serves as a lecturer and thesis supervisor at the University of Guyana and the University of Tartu, guiding BSc/MSc students in their final-year projects. She leads the development of the open-source Robotic Study Companion project and is committed to democratising access to technology education, mentoring students internationally, and advocating for open-source collaboration across borders.

Dr. Gunjan Mansingh

Gunjan Mansingh is a Professor of Data Science at the Department of Computing, The University of the West Indies (U.W.I), Mona, Jamaica. She brings extensive expertise to her teaching, covering undergraduate and the graduate courses in Computer Science, Information Systems and Data Science including Business Intelligence, Programming, Artificial Intelligence, Data Visualization, and Knowledge Discovery and Analytics.

Beyond Academia she holds key leadership roles in Jamaica's digital transformation. She serves as a Chairperson of ICT Authority of Jamaica, the entity responsible for ICT services and solution for Government of Jamaica. She is also a member of the Digital Transformation Advisory Council setup by Office of the Prime Minister to guide the digital transformation of Jamaica. She is also a member of the Steering Committee for CARICOM Girls in ICT. She sits on the board of Jamaica National Financial Group.

Her research focuses on leveraging data, information, and knowledge to enhance decision-making. She is a co-author of the book "Business Intelligence for SMEs: An Agile Roadmap for Sustainability." She is a co-editor of an edited book titled "Knowledge Management for Development: Domains, Strategies and Technologies for Developing Countries", Springer Integrated Series in Information Systems. She has over 60 publications in international journals, proceedings of several international conferences and as book chapters.

Mrs. Donnette O'Neil

Mrs. Donnette O'Neil is a software engineer with over 19 years of experience in the technology industry. She currently works as a Senior Database Administrator in the Information technology Unit for the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) where she supervises staff in the development of application systems and collaborates with consultants implementing systems for the Government. She was head of the data working group in charge of the integrating data from various agencies that provided weekly National Evacuees reports to the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) after the volcanic Eruption in St.Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021.

In addition to her primary functions Mrs. O'Neil worked as a Project Coordinator in the implementation of the Electronic Document and Records Management Project (EDRMS) from 2016 to 2019 and the Intelligent Bus Management & Monitoring System Project 2019 to 2022 which provided a bus information system with digital bus stands and a surveillance system with installation of cameras on the main roads of SVG and the installation of facial recognition cameras at the Argyle international airport.

She holds a Bsc. in Computer Science from the University of Camaguey, Cuba, a certificate in Design and Implementation of e-Government Strategies from Department of State Modernization and Governance (DSMG) of the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA), USA and a Master's degree in Strategic IT Management from Arden University, UK.

Due to her passion for empowering women and girls she is the past Past President of the Soroptimist International SVG responsible for collaborating with StemSVG to integrate training in Introduction to Augmented Reality, web site development and 3D Printing with the usual free life skills summer program with training in Introduction to Augmented Reality, web site development and 3D Printing.

Ms. Chenelle Spooner

Chenelle Spooner is a dynamic communications strategist, award-nominated filmmaker, and advocate for youth who has carved out an impactful career at the intersection of media, technology, and storytelling. With over a decade of experience in public relations, social media management, and digital content creation, Chenelle is proof that creative passion and digital innovation can be a powerful force for change.

Currently serving as the Communications Officer (Social Media) at the CARICOM Secretariat, Chenelle designs and leads high-impact digital campaigns that connect the Caribbean region and elevate its stories to global audiences. From coordinating the digital presence of Heads of Government Meetings to shaping campaigns for regional development and youth engagement, she uses social media and ICT tools to drive awareness, inclusion, and cultural pride.

A graduate of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Chenelle holds dual degrees—a BA in Communication Studies (with a Minor in Gender Studies) and a BA in Film Production & Film Studies. Her love for storytelling and technology led her into the world of film, where she wrote, directed, and edited *Wither*—an acclaimed short film that was nominated for the People's Choice Award at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival. Her work spans all areas of the production pipeline, showcasing her proficiency in photography, videography, editing, and content strategy.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Chenelle is a dedicated youth leader, having represented Trinidad and Tobago at global platforms such as One Young World, the Commonwealth Youth Forum, and the Summit of the Americas Youth Forum. She has also served in numerous voluntary roles focused on communications, youth advocacy, and female empowerment.

Through every project, Chenelle remains committed to empowering girls and young women to embrace the possibilities of ICT and digital media. She believes that technology is a tool not just for connection, but for creation, transformation, and self-expression. Whether behind the camera or behind a digital campaign, Chenelle's mission is clear: to amplify the unheard, create opportunities through storytelling, and build a digital Caribbean that reflects the richness of its people.

As a role model for girls in ICT, Chenelle Spooner is not just breaking barriers—she's building bridges.

Ms. Ayanna T. Samuels

With a career spanning over 20 years across the Caribbean, East Africa, the USA and Europe, and an unwavering belief in the power of ICT-driven socio-economic empowerment and inclusive innovation to leapfrog those most in need towards access to basic human rights, Ayanna has pioneered work at the intersection of gender, ICTs, technology policy, innovation and empowerment. Her expertise spans public and private sector engagements across the USA, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Haiti, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tanzania and Norway.

A strong Diversity, Equity and Inclusion advocate, Ayanna has worked tirelessly with leading multilateral, government and private sector organizations to leverage the power of digitalization and innovation to bridge the digital and capability divide for marginalized groups. The realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for all is a leading ethos in her work. Ayanna also works to bolster knowledge economies with the aim of contributing to advancement in technical and scientific innovation - a key tenet for the sustainable development of any country.

Ayanna has collaborated with numerous international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), where she worked whilst living in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2004 and 2010. Currently based in Norway, as a PhD Research Fellow and University Lecturer, Ayanna is currently exploring themes around the immense potential of artificial intelligence and gender inclusive innovation, which is responsive to the diversity our intersectional identities bring to the table, to ensure equal opportunities for all.

Ms. Samuels is a motivational speaker, triathlete and wellness consultant. She holds two M.Sc. degrees in Aerospace Engineering and Technology Policy respectively, along with a B.Sc. in Aerospace Engineering with IT, all from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Ms. Tatiana Norton

Tatiana Norton is an Engineering Technician at the Ministry of Public Works, where she contributes to infrastructure development under the Special Projects Unit. With a keen interest in engineering and project management, she plays a role in ensuring the successful execution of community projects. Tatiana is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Guyana, equipping herself with advanced technical knowledge to further enhance her contributions to the field.

Beyond her professional and academic pursuits, Tatiana is a dedicated youth leader and advocate. She is a former Youth parliamentarian, a Young Influencer, Canadian High Commissioner for the day and she now serves as the Inclusion and Regional Committee Chairperson of the Guyana National Youth Council, working to amplify youth voices and promote inclusivity of marginalized youths. Her passion for leadership and policy advocacy has led her to represent Guyana at international platforms, including CARICOM and Commonwealth summits. Through her extensive volunteer work and participation in youth-driven initiatives, she remains committed to empowering young people, especially women and girls.

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Dr. Daricia Wilkinson

Dr. Wilkinson is an Assistant Professor in the Human Systems Engineering program at Arizona State University, Director of the Responsible Technology and Society Lab, and an affiliate of the Center for Human, Artificial Intelligence, and Robot Teaming (CHART). Her work is driven by a deep commitment to building safe and responsible technology by advancing understanding of the harms perpetuated by AI systems. She actively conducts foundational research to design protective mechanisms through both design and governance.

Her research bridges Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to surface opportunities for fairness, transparency, and justice in digital environments. Dr. Wilkinson previously served as a Postdoctoral Researcher in the FATE (Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, and Ethics in AI) group at Microsoft Research, and was recognized as one of the Top 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics in 2023.

Originally from St. Kitts and Nevis, she earned her bachelor's degree from the University of the Virgin Islands, followed by a master's degree in Computer Science and a Ph.D. in Human-Centered Computing from Clemson University, where she was advised by Dr. Bart Knijnenburg.

Ms. Bevon Chadel Charles

Bevon Chadel Charles is a visionary leader and trailblazer from Grenada, renowned for her pioneering work in sustainable agriculture and community development. As the founder of Akata Farms, Bevon is revolutionizing agriculture by integrating cutting-edge technology and eco-friendly practices to empower local farmers and drive economic growth. Her commitment to transforming food systems is creating a sustainable and prosperous future for communities in Grenada and beyond.

With a deep-rooted passion for agriculture, Bevon's journey began in the heart of Grenada, where agriculture and small businesses are the backbone of livelihoods. Her diverse skill set in International Business and Trade, AI technology, and Sustainable Land Management fuels her innovative approach to agriculture. As the creator of AkataGrow, a fintech platform providing microloans to small-scale farmers, Bevon is breaking down financial barriers and promoting financial inclusion, food security, and gender equality.

Beyond her work in agriculture, Bevon is a dedicated advocate for gender equality and youth empowerment. She is the Grenada Representative of the Caribbean Development Bank's Future Leaders Network-FLN, USAID Youth Council Ambassador, and the Country Coordinator-Commonwealth Youth Climate Network.

She was honored with the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Award for the Caribbean and the 2024 OECS Persons in Agriculture Award for her trailblazing contributions.

Mrs. Kathy Smith

Mrs. Kathy Smith is the first woman President Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI). She previously served as the Senior Vice President, Secretary, and she was the Chairperson of the Chamber's Petroleum Committee as well as the Human Resource Management and Capacity Building Committee.

Mrs. Smith is the Managing Director of Dynotech Construction Chemicals. This company is the importer, distributor and installer of premium building materials and waterproofing chemicals with a passion for providing high-quality products and exceptional customer service to meet customers' construction and waterproofing needs.

Mrs. Smith is a waterproofing specialist and the only female leader in the waterproofing sector within Guyana. She has over two decades of work experience, spanning both the private and public sectors. Mrs. Smith first started her professional career as a teacher before venturing into the private sector, where she was exposed to various leadership roles.

She holds a Degree in Business Management, a Graduate Certificate in Management, and various certificates in Waterproofing Technologies. She has a passion for the development of women leaders and equipping them with the skills and resources to succeed.