



NABO Scholarship Award

Mr. Andre Dickson



My name is Andre Dickson and I am a first generation Barbadian and it is through my family and relating with Barbadian Associations in Boston that I have come to gain insight into my heritage as a Barbadian. I see NABO as a reflection of all Barbadians across the United States and I am motivated by its goal of mobilizing Barbadians for the improvement of our country.

My greatest exposure to NABO came on March 26 when I attended its workshop hosted in Boston where first hand I was afforded the opportunity to hear from government officials and the NABO executive. I was intrigued by the plans which were discussed and impressed that NABO organize such an event to educate the Barbadian community outside of Barbados.

For a number of years I have been working with a nonprofit business, Ideal Meals which through its founder, seeks to raise funds for charitable initiatives. By working and sharing with those less fortunate than myself I believe I have gained much more than I given and I am compelled to continue to give back at an even higher level. The workshop was particularly interesting to me in that regard as I was enlightened as to how we as Barbadians can channel our resources to those in need, in Barbados.

From my attendance at the NABO workshop, interfacing with the Barbadian Associations in Boston and working with Ideal Meals, I recognize that I am often one of the few young faces around. I believe that one area where NABO can improve as an organization is by reaching out to first and second generation Barbadians such as myself. I have also noticed that there is not a youth related branch or focus for the organization. I believe such an aspect would not only widen the horizons of NABO but ensure its longevity.

I believe I could help improve NABO's future by providing ideas of how to capture the imagination and participation of other young persons. As a first generation Barbadian I am blessed to have been surrounded by a family which has not forgotten its culture and which has ensured that I have been exposed to my heritage, for example I am member of the Celestial Infernos, a youth group from St Cyprians Church where I play steel pan. It is my desire to similarly expose the Caribbean culture to the people in the community also to encourage them to want to know more about my heritage as a West Indian.

In conclusion, that NABO as an organization is a great investment in my education to my culture. This scholarship will not only benefit me as a young Barbadian but the other young persons in the community to strive to achieve their goals for success with the help of NABO. I must thank NABO for taking the time out to give out this opportunity for the young Barbadians in the Boston Community to go towards and grasp their hopes and dreams. Thank you again for this extraordinary chance to enhance my future and NABO's as well.