

MEDIA RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

**Trinidad and Tobago
Securities and Exchange Commission
Levels 22-23 Tower D,
International Waterfront Centre
1 Wrightson Road
Port of Spain
Trinidad W.I.**



April 11, 2025

Brothers Take Top Prizes in TTSEC's National Secondary Schools' Investing Competition

Brothers **Alario and Antonio Andalcio**, sixth and fifth form pupils respectively of **El Dorado East Secondary School**, took top prizes in the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission's ("TTSEC") inaugural **National Secondary Schools Investing Competition: "Invest.Learn.Grow"**.

The prize-giving ceremony was held today **Friday April 11, 2025**, at the TTSEC's Offices located at the International Waterfront Centre, Port of Spain, where Alario copped the **\$10,000 first place prize** to invest in securities donated by the TTSEC while his younger brother, Antonio, secured third place and the **\$3,000** to invest in securities, sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange Limited.

The second-place prize of **\$5,000**, in securities, went to **Sydney Look Fong, a Form 6 pupil of Naparima Girls High School, San Fernando**.

Prizes were awarded to participants based on the growth of their investment portfolio and upon achieving the minimum number of active trades.

The competition was open to nationals 13-19 years and took place over the period **February 10 to April 4, 2025** and involved participation from over **349** students from **104** of the country's **166** secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. The aim was to foster financial literacy and empower students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed investment decisions, gain hands-on experience in investment strategies, encourage a culture of strategic thinking and responsible financial management for future success and participation in the local capital market.

This investing competition was played by students utilising the TTSEC's virtual stock market simulator **InvestorQuest-TT.com** and involved trading in stocks, bonds and mutual funds offered by fictitious companies.

In her Feature Address, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Ayanna Gaspard-Clarke, stated *"At the Ministry of Education, we emphasise the importance of financial literacy as part of our strategic effort to strengthen school curricula to develop appropriate competency levels in critical subject areas. She explained that "The Education Policy 2022-2027 documents a policy direction that includes an increased focus on the*

development of age-appropriate competencies in areas such as Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy, Coding and Programming to name a few. When we examine the financial and investment landscape, it is clear that these competencies are not just individually critical but are synergistically relevant in our economy.”

She noted that the participants in the TTSEC’s National Competition, *“will be equipped to impart nuggets of financial wisdom to their peers, parents and guardians. It means the learning and development that has taken place (thanks to this competition) is meaningful. It is meaningful not only for the individual students... not only for the schools they proudly represent... but for our wider society and the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago.* She also told attendees that *“At the Ministry of Education, we emphasise the importance of financial literacy as part of our strategic effort to strengthen school curricula to develop appropriate competency levels in critical subject areas.”*

Kester Guy, TTSEC Chief Executive Officer, in his welcome remarks pointed out that the competition represents a stimulating blend of education and finance, created to give you, our students, valuable financial knowledge and practical investing skills – lifelong tools that will help you successfully navigate the world of wealth creation.

He acknowledged the support of the Ministry and the Division of Education, Research and Technology, Tobago House of Assembly and called for *“a targeted approach on the way forward bringing all the synergies and past collaborations together. I would like to have this codified in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding with explicit success factors that we can measure annually and track over the next 5 or 10 years. TTSEC is committed and we look forward to a stronger future”.*

In her competition overview, Manager of Corporate Communication and Education, Ellen Lewis, commended Principals and Teachers for supporting their students and the winners for investing their time and energy to the Competition.

Other Special Prizes were awarded to:

- **Vessigny Secondary School-** Winner of the Principal/School Prize of \$10,000 donated by the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago for the purchase of educational materials for the school. Vessigny had highest number (106) of student registrations.
- **David-Lee Skinner-Ballantyne, Head of Department, Business Studies,** Corpus Christi College, Diego Martin - Winner of the Teacher Prize of a **\$5,000** investment in securities. This prize was donated by the Mutual Funds Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

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About the TTSEC:

The TTSEC is governed by the Securities Act 2012 and is responsible for maintaining oversight of the securities market and for ensuring that fairness, equity and transparency remain common values in the marketplace. Our vision is to be an effective regulator of the capital market in which stakeholders have confidence.

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