

# PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
142 OLD HOPE ROAD, KINGSTON 6



Contact: Public Affairs Section TEL: 702-6000, Email: [kingstonpress@state.gov](mailto:kingstonpress@state.gov)

Thursday, June 23, 2016

For immediate release

## Jamaica Shines at Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2016

U.S. Embassy, Kingston extends its warmest congratulations to Jamaican entrepreneur, Kenia Mattis, winner of the Spark the Fire Pitch Startup Competition. From over 10,000 applicants, Kenia's pitch was so good that she was selected as one of the three finalists who surmounted the global competition. Kenia is one of four Jamaicans in this year's U.S. State Department, Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2016, held in Silicon Valley California, United States, from June 22-24, 2016.

This is the 7th anniversary of the GES, which was previously hosted by the United States and the governments of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Morocco, and Kenya. In bringing the Summit back to the United States, President Obama highlights his commitment to building bridges that help us tackle global challenges together. The Spark the Fire pitch competition, organized by the Global Entrepreneurship Network is designed to help emerging entrepreneurs from around the world seek investment, as well as start and scale their venture. With a passion for storytelling, Kenia started ListenMiCaribbean, a collective of creatives using predictive technologies to re-shape the way people think and behave. Kenia was the sole Jamaican from a select group of local applicants, awarded full funding by the U.S. State Department. For winning the competition, her company will receive US\$15,000, US\$1,000 AirBnB credit and the opportunity to pitch directly to some of the top venture capitalists and angel investors in America.

The other Jamaican participants were Patria-Kaye Aarons, Sweetie Confectionary, founded in 2013, Nichole Crawford-Thompson, Co-founder and CEO of Niritech Limited, founded in 2014, and Yaneeek Page, Founder and CEO of The Innovators School Clubs, founded in 2015. During the summit, entrepreneurs engaged in workshops, panels, ignite talks, pitch competitions, mentoring, and networking sessions aimed at building their entrepreneurial skills. These tailored opportunities will help their ventures grow. Participants also connected with industry experts. Featured speakers, included, the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama, Founder and CEO of Startup Grind, Derek Andersen, and Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Maria Contreras-Sweet.

The Global Entrepreneurship Summit showcases and inspires entrepreneurs and investors from around the world to create new opportunities for investment, partnership, and collaboration; connect American entrepreneurs and investors with international counterparts to form lasting relationships; and highlight entrepreneurship as means to address some of the most intractable global challenges.

Interviews with the winner and U.S. Embassy official can be arranged. Please contact Kingston Press.

-End-

For more information contact

Derie Gilzeane, Information Specialist,  
Public Affairs Section U.S. Embassy, Kingston  
Phone: 1-876-702-6161  
Email: [gilzeanedk@state.gov](mailto:gilzeanedk@state.gov)

Cleo Walker, Information Assistant  
Public Affairs Section U.S. Embassy, Kingston  
Phone: 1-876-702-6275  
Email: [walkercv@state.gov](mailto:walkercv@state.gov)