

PRESS RELEASE:

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AKEILA BRINGS HOME SILVER FOR BARBADOS AT WORLDSKILLS AMERICAS COMPETITION

AKEILA CHAPMAN, BARBADOS' sole representative at the WorldSkills Americas competition which took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 14 – 18, 2012, has won the silver medal in the Ladies and Men's Hairdressing category. Barbados came second behind the gold medal winner who represented the host country Brazil.

The official results were as follows:

1. Brazil - 551.00 points - GOLD
2. Barbados - 493.00 points - SILVER
3. Guatemala - 478.00 points - TIE BRONZE
4. Dominican Republic - 477.00 TIE BRONZE.

El Salvador, the other competing country in the Hairdressing category, also had only one competitor in the event. Jamaica was the only other CARICOM country to compete in the WorldSkills Americas Competition with a total of four (4) competitors. Jamaica ranked tenth (10) overall out of the nineteen (19) countries which competed in a total of 35 skill areas.

Akeila was the Barbados Vocational Training Board's (BVTB) silver medallist in the Hairdressing category of the WorldSkills Barbados Competition coordinated by the **TVET Council** in March of this year. Now in the second year of the BVTB's three-year Cosmetology Apprenticeship programme, she also copped the second highest marks for the overall competition. Her BVTB teammate Clesita Moore came first but was unable to compete in the Brazil round because she was outside the age-range allowed in the competition. Akeila was accompanied by her Coach/ BVTB Demonstrator, Ms. Wendy Bishop and TVET Council's Technical Officer Marlyn Rawlins who was Barbados' Technical Delegate to the competition.

The WorldSkills Barbados and WorldSkills Americas competitions are based on the WorldSkills International Competition - a global "skills Olympics" - which is held in one of 55 member countries every two years to provide young people ages 16 – 22 enrolled in training institutions the opportunity to compete and demonstrate their excellence in skilled professions.

As part of her preparation for the WorldSkills Americas, Akeila underwent professional training at the 101 Style Hair and Scalp Clinic under the tutelage of stylist Arlette Knight-Olton, who also helped to prepare WorldSkills Barbados' overall winner Clesita Moore for competition.

She was also exposed to techniques in cutting, colouring, styling and hair care from some of the island's most talented stylists and pitted her talents against some of these stylists and fellow students by participating in simulations done under competition rules and conditions in the months leading up to the competition.

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Barbados