



**CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN FOR
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
in Florida, Inc.

32nd Annual
**STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND
AWARD CEREMONY**

*Empowering Youth
&
Investing in our Future*

**HONORING ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT AND SERVICE**



Saturday, June 14, 2025 at 2 pm
**Portuguese American Cultural Society
of Palm Beach County**

*“Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world”*
-Nelson Mandela

ABOUT CAFCI

CAFCI is committed to volunteerism and social activities. The organization's annual affairs continue to provide the opportunity for members to serve and help with the social, educational and health needs of the community. This year CAFCI celebrates 36 years as an active and vibrant organization. Thanks to the continued dedication and commitment of its members, 100% of whom volunteer their time to the organization.

This year, CAFCI celebrates its 32nd year of providing student assistance. The evening highlights the 2025 Student Assistance Fund (SAF) Awards Presentation. This event is made possible due to the members' and supporters' contribution to CAFCI's and the Student Assistance Fund's fundraising events. Grants and donations from many champions for education also help to make this evening possible.

Thanks to the CAFCI Student Assistance Fund Committee for orchestrating this very important segment of the organization.

CAFCI'S MISSION STATEMENT

*To maintain and sustain the quality of life for the community,
consistent with the culture and tradition of our
diverse ancestral heritage.*

CELEBRATING 36 YEARS OF...

- Cultural Diversity
- Volunteerism
- Health Awareness
- Community Outreach
- Youth Development Educational Assistance

UPCOMING CAFCI EVENT

- **34th Annual Friendship Ball**
September 20, 2025 at 7 pm
West Palm Beach Marriott

2025 SAF DONORS AND SPONSORS



CAFCI STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Empowering Youth & Investing in Our Future

CAFCI extends heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors whose financial contributions make the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) possible. Your support empowers students to pursue their educational goals and achieve their dreams.

We are deeply grateful for your commitment to making a difference in their lives and within our community.

(List complete as of date of printing)

J.R. Appollon

**Bodden & Bennett Law Group,
Carlos Bodden, Esq.***

Lorianne Cabrera

Loraine Cargill

**Claudette “Pat” and
Lukie Christie**

Chioma Deere, Esq.

**Robert Diffenderfer, Esq. and
Michelle Diffenderfer, Esq.***

**Wendy Edwards and
Yvonne Edwards***

Escoffery Family and Martin Family*

**Raymond Ferguson and
Robin Ferguson**

**Vivian and Adrienne Ferrin
Memorial Scholarship Fund***

Clover Henry Gilroy

**NextEra Energy |
Florida Power & Light Company***

Golden Krust, Clayton Robinson

Hazel Hamilton

Michelle Henriquez

**Michael Hill and
Norma Smith-Hill, Esq.**

Jeff and Carolyn Hmara

Dorothy Jacks

Dominique and Alpha McDonald

Lillian McGann

**Willowmere Gardens LLC,
Steven Morrison**

Shirley and Mark Morrison

Jean Middleton, Esq.

**Port of Palm Beach,
Honorable Wayne Richards***

Ledlo “Neil” and Junette Powell

Jess and Victoria Santamaria*

Opal Sangster

Sheena Bouchet Simmons

Hilary Varlack

Genieve White Family*

Nadine White-Boyd, Esq.

Yvonne Wright

**Donations of \$1,000 or more*

Technology support provided by Radcliffe “Woody” Brown

Video prepared by Kareem Gordon

Program prepared by Thalia White Lauren

Program printed by Postnet

Music provided by Aldin Smith

2025 SAF AWARD RECIPIENTS

Amanayea Abraham Award_____	ABRIANNA EVANS
Bodden & Bennett Law Group_____	ALLAN JOHNSON
CAFCI Award_____	DIEDRIANA PLUMMER
CAFCI Award_____	KENORDIA REYNOLDS
CAFCI Award_____	NICHOLAS WATSON
CAFCI Award_____	LAUREN PERSAUD SINGH
Michelle and Robert Diffenderfer Award____	CHRISTINE THOMPSON
Gloria Edwards Award_____	LORENDIE EXAVIER
Ferrin Student Leadership Award_____	RAYVEN RICHARDS
FPL Award_____	ELIZABETH ROBLES
FPL Award_____	NIA WATSON
Audrey C. Martin Award_____	DAVID DUVAL
Jess & Victoria Santamaria Award_____	NINA-SIMONE SIMMONDS
Genieve White Family Award_____	DEJA PATTERSON

STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND COMMITTEE

Nadine White-Boyd, Esq., Co-Chair
Junette Powell, Co-Chair
Leonie Escoffery, Treasurer
Doreen Baker
Lavern Blackwood
Robin Ferguson
Norma Smith-Hill
Marva Wilks

CAFCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Wright, President
Genieve White, 1st Vice President
Rhonda Ferrin-Davis, 2nd Vice President
Yvonne Elliott, Treasurer
Doreen Baker, Recording Secretary
Paul Baker, Corresponding Secretary
Carolyn Hmara
Norma Smith-Hill
Marva Wilks

PROGRAM

Mistress of Ceremony_____	LEONIE ESCOFFERY
National Anthem_____	RACHEL FERGUSON
Welcome_____	DENNIS WRIGHT <i>President, CAFCI</i>
CAFCI's Mission Statement_____	DENNIS WRIGHT <i>President, CAFCI</i>
Introduction of Committee & Recognition of 2025 Donors_____	NADINE WHITE-BOYD, ESQ.
Summary of CAFCI Student Assistance Fund Award Program_____	DOREEN BAKER
Salute to 2025 SAF Award Recipients_____	HON. JEFF HMARA <i>Mayor, Village of Royal Palm Beach</i>
Greetings from the School Board of Palm Beach County_____	MARCIA ANDREWS <i>School Board - District 6</i>

VIDEO PRESENTATION OF SAF AWARD RECIPIENTS & CONGRATULATIONS FROM PAST RECIPIENTS

Words of Wisdom_____	BRIANA ULYSSE <i>2024 SAF Award Recipient</i>
Musical Tribute_____	SAMARA LEWIS
Introduction of Guest Speaker_____	LAVERN BLACKWOOD
Keynote Speaker_____	KAREN HINDS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Musical Tribute_____	WENDY KAY WILSON
Expression of Thanks_____	ROBIN FERGUSON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



CEO | COACH | SPEAKER | AUTHOR

Karen draws from over 25 years as an author, CEO and trusted advisor to C-Suite leaders, blending insights from her personal journey. From a young Caribbean student pursuing opportunities in the USA, she emerged as an authority on leadership and culture transformation, while prioritizing her own well-being.

As founder of Workplace Success Group, a global strategic training and consulting firm, Karen also established The RENEW Experience for Women™, a leadership and wellness retreat. Additionally, she launched RENEW Learn™, a holistic platform transforming women leaders through community, knowledge, and accountability.

KAREN HAS BEEN FEATURED BY:

**BLACK
ENTERPRISE**

FamilyCircle.

The Boston Globe

HARTFORD
BUSINESS JOURNAL

 **CIM CHARTERED**
HONOLULU CHAPTER

WWW.KARENHINDS.COM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THE renew™

EXPERIENCE FOR WOMEN



REGISTER TODAY!

SEPTEMBER 18 - 21, 2025

- ✓ LEADERSHIP
- ✓ WELLNESS
- ✓ COMMUNITY



PGA NATIONAL RESORT
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA



YOUR HOST
KAREN HINDS

TheRENEWexperience.com

SAVE \$100 on registration - Use code: CAFCIPBC



203-525-8981



info@karenhinds.com



KarenHindsWSG



KarenHindsWSG



KarenHindsWSG



KarenSHinds

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

AUDREY MARTIN AWARD



DAVID DUVAL

Royal Palm Beach Community High School

Accepted at: FAMU/Florida A&M University

Career Goal: CPA/Hedge Fund Manager

David, an honor roll student dual-enrolled at Palm Beach State College, received the Entrepreneurship & Small Business Industry Certificate. He served as Financial Secretary for the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa and volunteered with the Susan G. Komen Foundation and Salvation Army Bell Ringers.

AMANAYEA ABRAHAM AWARD



ABRIANNA EVANS

Forest Hill Community High School

Accepted at: Palm Beach State College

Career Goal: Speech Language Pathology

An honor roll student and member of Junior ROTC, Abrianna is descendant of both Jamaican and Haitian heritage. She is the recipient of the 2025 Attention Grabbing Art Award and volunteered with Peggy Adams Animal Rescue, Sanctuary of the Palm Beaches, and as a Student Assistant at Forest Hill High.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GLORIA EDWARDS AWARD



LORENDIE EXAVIER

Atlantic Community High School

Accepted at: Florida Atlantic University

Career Goal: Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

An honor roll student, Lorendie is the recipient of numerous awards including the Academic Excellence Award, the National Honor Society Award, and the National Fitness Award. She served as Founder and President of the Caribbean Culture Club, President of the French Honor Society, and First Lieutenant and Company Commander of the Junior ROTC. Recipient of the 2024 Smith College Women of Distinction and the Big Future Engagement Rock Star Award.

BODDEN & BENNETT LAW GROUP AWARD



ALLAN JOHNSON

Suncoast Community High School

Accepted at: University of Central Florida

Career Goal: Computer Science

Allan is a recipient of the College Board National African American Recognition Award. He served as Anchor and Producer of the School's TV Production, WRSN. He was Secretary and Committee Chair in the Black Union Club, Student Government Association Class President, and Chaired the Public Relations Committees for Speech & Debate Club and Caribbean Student Union Club.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENIEVE WHITE FAMILY AWARD



DEJA PATTERSON

Royal Palm Beach Community High School

Accepted at: Palm Beach Atlantic University

Career Goal: Graphic Designer

Deja's many achievements includes 1ST place winner in Martin Luther King, Jr. Art Contest, Soroptimist International of the Palm Beaches' Student of the Year (2023), and multiple Wildcat of the Month awards. She served as Vice President and President of the RoseAnn Brown Starlights and a volunteer with Helping Other People Excel (Hope) and at Above and Beyond Preschool.

CAFCI AWARD



DIEDRIANA PLUMMER

Royal Palm Beach Community High School

Accepted at: Southern California Institute of Architecture

Career Goal: Architect and Real Estate Developer

Diedriana is a driven and creative student who aspires to blend architecture and real estate to transform urban spaces. She is a member of the Key Club and the Interact Club. Diedriana volunteered with the Voices of Jamaica Today Foundation assisting with food distribution to the elderly and back to school supplies for children in need.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CAFCI AWARD



KENORDIA REYNOLDS

Royal Palm Beach Community School

Accepted at: Palm Beach State College

Career Goal: Registered Nurse

Third place winner of the HOSA award, Kenordia also served as Co-Captain of the Wildcat Dance Team and Historian of AVID and a member of Women of Tomorrow. She earned Overall Grand Champion in the National Dance competition. As a volunteer, she co-chaired the Relay for Life Committee and worked as a Poll Worker with the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.

FERRIN STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD



RAYVEN RICHARDS

Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

Accepted at: University of Michigan

Career Goal: Nurse Anesthetist

Rayven is the recipient for several awards, including 1st Place Winner of the English-Speaking Union Essay Contest, and AP Scholar with Distinction. She is a member of the Speech & Debate Team, the Swim & Dive Team, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Communications Honor Society. She served as Managing Editor and Social Media Editor for the Muse Magazine, and Vice President and Legislative Chair for the Jack and Jill PBC Chapter.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

FPL AWARD



ELIZABETH ROBLES

Pahokee High School

Accepted at: University of Florida

Career Goal: Agricultural Data Scientist

Elizabeth won 1st Place in the IB MYP Personal Project Competition. She earned a spot on the PBSC Part-time President's List and the FIRST Robotics Dean List. She received several recognitions including College Board National Hispanic Recognition Award and Team Awards for FUN League and FIRST Tech. She served as President of the Spanish Honors Society and Dreamcatchers clubs, and Team Captain of FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Club.

CAFCI AWARD



LAUREN PERSAUD-SINGH

Royal Palm Beach Community High School

Accepted at: Palm Beach State College

Career Goal: Nursing

Lauren is an AICE diploma graduate. She volunteers with Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Church and works on the annual OLQA Christmas Festival. She also volunteered with Elegant Event Design and manages an ice cream and soda business in the local shopping mall.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

JESS & VICTORIA SANTAMARIA AWARD



NINA-SIMONE SIMMONDS

Palm Beach Lakes High School

Accepted at: FAMU/Florida A&M University

Career Goal: Anesthesiologist

Nina-Simone is ranked in top 5% of her graduating class. She is a Member of the National Honors Society, Palm Beach Lakes Ram Regiment Band and Student Government Association. Nina served as Treasurer of SGA and Auxiliary Captain of the Band. She volunteered with district voting campaigns and as an Inner-City Youth Camp Counselor.

MICHELLE & ROBERT DIFFENDERFER AWARD



CHRISTINE THOMPSON

Atlantic Community High School

Accepted at: Penn State University

Career Goal: Criminal Defense Attorney

Christine won 1st Place in the Jesse Helms Center's Free Enterprise Leadership Challenge, 2nd Place in the Black History Month Essay Contest and earned a spot on the Principal's Honor Roll. She served as Vice President of the National Honor Society, the Caribbean Culture Club and Co-Captain of the Varsity Bowling Team. She volunteers with the John Knox Village Nursing Home, Glades Presbyterian Church, and Renaissance Charter School.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

FPL AWARD



NIA WATSON

Suncoast Community High School

Accepted at: University of Central Florida

Career Goal: Aerospace Engineer

A Section Leader of the Jazz Band, Nia is ranked Superior in Solo and ensemble MPA. She is an AP Scholar with distinction and has earned the Consecutive Principal's Honor Roll and holds several Autodesk Certifications. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Society of Women Engineers, and Caribbean Student Association. Nia served as Secretary of the Chargersonic Sound Band, Section Leader of the Jazz Band, and Historian of the Society of Women Engineer.

CAFCI AWARD



NICHOLAS WATSON

Suncoast Community High School

Accepted at: Curry College

Career Goal: Physical Therapist

Nicholas is a student-athlete who plays volleyball, studies kinesiology, enjoys learning about the body, staying active, and challenging himself to grow every day. Nicholas served as Manager and Captain of his Varsity Volleyball Team. He is a member of Sportsmanship Across Campus, and volunteers with Big Dog Ranch and Ocean Bay Volleyball.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Student applicants must

- Have at least a cumulative 2.7 GPA;
- Demonstrate continuous academic success in their high school tenure;
- Show that they have participated in school and community activities;
- Show interest in the Caribbean community;
- Provide Acceptance Letter from accredited college, university or institute of higher learning;
- Interview with SAF Application Committee

The monetary assistance is awarded to students who are going on to a college, university, or other accredited institution of higher learning.

Congratulations to CAFCI's 2025 Student Assistance Fund Award recipients for accomplishing these requirements and so much more.



HERE IS HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR STUDENTS

- Make check or money order payable to: C.A.F.C.I. (Note for Student Assistance Fund)
- Donate by going to CAFCI's website www.cafcipbc.org and click on Donate to Student Assistance Fund.

No contribution is too small. On behalf of the students, their families and CAFCI, **THANK YOU** for your support.



Saturday, September 20, 2025

7 pm - 1 am

Dinner Served at 8 pm

*Live Entertainment
featuring*



\$120

**Advance Ticket Sales Only | Cash Bar
SEMI-FORMAL | DOOR PRIZES | RAFFLE**

WEST PALM BEACH MARRIOTT

**1001 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33401**



For more information or to purchase tickets

Dennis Wright 561.653.1586

Audrey Smith 561.601.8856

Alvin Nembhard 561.670.8113