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Thorne in line for global award

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Barbadian Toni Thorne has made the shortlist of the 2014 Junior Chamber International (JCI) Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World programme (JCI TOY). Thorne was named in the cultural achievement category when the JCI announced the 20 finalists on August 4. The competition is a global programme of JCI, a global network of young active citizens with over 200 000 members, JCI Senators and senior members in more than 100 countries and territories. The local organisation, JCI Barbados, is a member of the larger National Organisation JCI West Indies; and JCI West Indies is one of the more than 100 National Organisations of JCI. Thorne, who developed an entrepreneurial spirit at a young age, always possessed a great pride and care for her Caribbean culture. The 27-year-old award-winning young entrepreneur and Barbados National Youth Awardee who has a background in economics and accounting, was previously employed in the oil and energy trading industry. She is now giving in to her desire to spread Barbadian culture. "She now uses her business savvy for a variety of community initiatives across her country of Barbados. She is pursuing a degree in law; has qualified for world debating championships, was the first person of African or Caribbean descent to sit on the Global Youth Leader's Summit in Prague, Budapest, and Vienna and as a global shaper has represented both Barbados and the

region at World Economic Forum conferences,” stated a release from JCI. Thorne has also represented Barbados in various aspects of culture – from fashion with her fashion line BoUiK, to dance with Dancin’ Africa. She also founded an outreach programme called Martha’s Smile for HIV-infected children in Jamaica and remains the creative director for Island Fusion Foreday Morning Band – a stakeholder in Barbados’ annual Crop Over Festival. She is also the managing director of Settlers West Coast Experience. Thorne is the publisher of renowned Pompasette Magazine and one of the lead characters in a regional television series shown across the English-speaking Caribbean, which used the media of film to educate Caribbean citizens on the importance of sexual health. Her company, Thorne Publishing and Productions, has been drafted by the Caribbean Media Corporation to provide empowering, engaging and entertaining television content for the region’s youth as well as for the reach of their station Caribvision which extends to the New York Tri-State and Canada. Her television show, The Toni Thorne Show, is expected to be seen on approximately three dozen regional television stations. Abena Agard, 2014 president of JCI Barbados noted that the goal of the not-for-profit organisation JCI is to provide members a means to reach their full potential through networking and personal growth opportunities and is ideal for proactive people over age of 18. Members enhance a variety of skills as they work together to plan and run civic and individual development activities in their home communities and chapters. “To this end, the JCI TOYP programme serves to recognise those individuals in our country who excel in their chosen fields, endeavours and commitment to their communities. This is the first year that JCI Barbados promoted the programme, and we are pleased to have highlighted the talents and resourcefulness of the region and gotten a nominee selected as an honouree. We also hope that by recognising this honouree we will provide fitting role models for the young leaders of tomorrow,” she said. Since 1983, JCI has honoured nearly 300 individuals from 57 nations. Past recipients of national awards include such well-known personalities as John F. Kennedy, Henry Kissinger, Elvis Presley, Jackie Chan, Wayne Gretzky and many more, all named before the age of 40 and before they had achieved national prominence. The nominees were submitted by the public to JCI Barbados before the end of April, and after successfully being nominated by JCI West Indies, the national TOYP finalist has now moved on to compete for the international title. Up to ten international honorees will be chosen from over 200 entries worldwide and will be invited to travel to the JCI World Congress in Germany, where their trophies will be presented to them at a formal awards ceremony. Nominees will have the opportunity to encourage family, friends, co-workers and everyone to vote. Voting is now open as the shortlisted candidates battle it out and JCI Barbados strongly urges the public to support Thorne. To vote simply go to <http://www.jci.cc/toypvote/?n=19> and click the Facebook ‘Like’ button at the bottom on Thorne’s bio. Voting closes on August 15. (PR)

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