



Press Release

2024 T. BASWELL DONALDSON RESEARCH PRIZE FINALISTS

The Central Bank of The Bahamas is pleased to announce the results of the 2024 T. Baswell Donaldson (T.B. Donaldson) Research Prize Competition. After review by an independent panel of judges (the Assessment Committee), an Honorable Mention has been awarded to Ms. Donae Miller-Duncombe of the University of The Bahamas, for her paper entitled “*Exploring the Gender Gap and its Impact on Small Business Funding within the Bahamas*”. This is the highest award for this year’s competition.

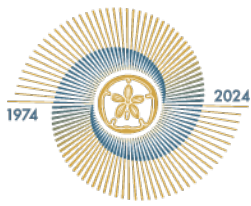
A total of thirty research submissions were received for the 2024 T.B. Donaldson Research Prize Competition, with authors hailing from both local and foreign tertiary institutions. The papers underwent two levels of assessments by a panel of economic professionals and university professors, culminating in the selection of five finalists.

As part of its 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Central Bank elevated the competition to include a research seminar, to mentor the finalists in strengthening their papers. The five finalists participated in a seminar over the summer hosted by the Central Bank, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, where they worked with a group of esteemed external lecturers to advance their research. The revised papers were assessed by the lecturers to determine the results of the competition.

The Research Prize is only awarded if the independent panel of judges deems an entry to meet the academic rigor expected of university-level research, and the relevance criteria for the Bahamian economy as prescribed by the Central Bank.

A number of the papers were assessed as having promise, which with revisions may have merited recognition. The Central Bank applauds these remaining finalists, and seminar participants, who are listed below in no particular order:

Name	School	Paper Title
Arianna Bastian	University of South Carolina	<i>Building Diversification and Resilience</i>
Crayanna Rolle	Barry University	<i>Capitalizing Development: A Bahamian Economic Theory</i>
Charles Hamilton	Bard College Berlin	<i>Eco-Economics: Advancing Bahamian Global Leadership in the Blue Economy through Carbon Trading and Concomitant Innovation</i>



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Kristen Moncur

University of The Bahamas

The Role of Credit Unions in Promoting Financial Inclusion, Community, Development and Sustainable Growth: Strategies, Challenges and Impacts

The T.B. Donaldson Research Prize Competition seeks to recognize Bahamian university students who produced outstanding research on topics of policy or other applied relevance to the Bahamian economy. The Central Bank thanks this year's candidates for their submissions. The Bank encourages students to continue to improve their research techniques and methods and participate in future iterations of the Research Prize.

15 November, 2024 ■