

**Jamaica's Top Student and Gold Medalist Waiter and Bartender of the Year
2012\2013**



(PHOTO left to Right Gold Medalist Alecia Eccleston – Top Student Bartender / Gold Medalist Narome Robinson- Top Student Waiter & Gold Medalist Andre Taylor)

The recently held Culinary Federation of Jamaica (CFJ)-Taste of Jamaica (TOJ) Culinary Competition in November 2012 saw some of Jamaica's noted tertiary and vocational institutions competing for medals and awards.

Two Western Hospitality Institute (WHI) students competed in the Food & Beverage Dining Room category and won first place and copped the only gold medal awarded in that category. The 2nd runner up with silver was Runaway Bay HEART Academy

and Bronze medal and 3rd place were earned by The University of Technology Jamaica.

Among that, WHI young Alecia Eccleston copped the only gold medal in the tertiary / vocational institution category and earned the title, **Student Bartender of the Year 2012/ 2013** .

Among the winners is Andre Taylor, who is one of the inner city youths that came to Western Hospitality Institute under the auspices of the Ministry of National Security and Justice/Citizen Security and Justice Program who had pursued and exceptionally completed a Certificate in Food and Beverage Services and was awarded a full scholarship by WHI to pursue an Associate of Science degree in Food & Beverage Management. Andre, along with Narome Robinson were selected to join the team of five (5) junior WHI student chefs and the lone female student bartender Alecia Eccleston . The entire team of eight (8) WHI student competitors in this category won the only Gold medal in tertiary / vocational institution team category. The students were judge at an international standard using the Caribbean Culinary Federation / Taste of the Caribbean international competition judging criteria. The student chefs prepared a three course meal from a mystery basket that the students waiters Narome and Andre served to a group of 20 invited guests and bartender Alecia prepared and served her creative layered gold medal drink to the 20 invited guests.

Alecia Eccleston was the lone female in the group who came to WHI from Falmouth Vocational Training Center, a HEART institution. She was one of the institution's shining stars having copped the Spirit of HEART acknowledgement at graduation. It was then that WHI saw the talent in young Alecia and awarded her a full tuition scholarship to Western Hospitality Institute where she is currently, like the others, pursuing her studies in Food and Beverage Management. Alecia also entered the professional bartending category of the competition and won for herself a silver medal in that category as well.

The quality of WHI students that were displayed at the competition showcased the excellent pedagogy our faculty at WHI who worked assiduously in preparing our students for the world of work and the field of academics. It a testament to the

strength and quality of the program delivered at WHI that allows our students to shine practically and theoretically.

Western Hospitality Institute @ Mel Nathan College located at the Sir Howard Cooke Campus in Montego Bay . The Mel Nathan College is owned by the International University of the Caribbean .