

ABCAS CELEBRATES INAUGURAL GRADUATION CEREMONY



*The Honourable Daryll S. Matthew,
Minister for Education*



*Dr. Ezra Jonah Greene, President of
ABCAS*



*Resa Nelson, 2026 Rhodes Scholar
and Commencement Speaker.*



The inaugural graduating class of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS).

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda (July 02, 2026) — The Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS) celebrated a defining moment in the nation's educational landscape on Thursday, July 2, as it hosted its inaugural Commencement Ceremony, honouring more than 200 graduates who made history as the inaugural graduating class of ABCAS. The ceremony, held at the





SJPC House of Restoration, brought together graduates, faculty, staff, government officials, industry partners and invited guests in celebration of a new chapter in tertiary education in Antigua and Barbuda.

The commencement ceremony marked the culmination of a significant transition in public tertiary education. The inaugural graduating class comprised students whose programmes began at the former Antigua State College (ASC), Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIT), and the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) before they were unified under the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies. The ceremony also recognized participants who successfully completed professional short courses offered through the School of Agriculture, reflecting the College's commitment to expanding opportunities for skills development and lifelong learning.

Graduates received associate degrees, diplomas and certificates across disciplines including business, culinary arts, education, engineering, health services, hospitality, information technology, the liberal arts, the creative industries and science.

Addressing the graduates, the **Honourable Darryl S. Matthew**, Minister for Education, described the ceremony as the realization of a bold vision for public tertiary education. He congratulated the inaugural graduating class on their achievement, encouraged them to use their knowledge and skills in service of national development, and commended the continued progress of the School of Agriculture as an example of ABCAS' expanding impact in preparing graduates and strengthening workforce development in Antigua and Barbuda.

The ceremony also featured an address by **ABCAS President Dr. Ezra Jonah Greene**, the commencement address delivered by **2026 Rhodes Scholar Resa Nelson**, the presentation of associate degrees and other qualifications, the valedictory address delivered by Valedictorian **Micaiah Graham**, graduate of the Associate of Arts in Secondary Education (TVET) programme at the Dr. Alister Francis Campus, and the symbolic turning of the tassels.

The inaugural commencement ceremony was marked by several memorable moments, including the recognition of national cyclist **Tahjé Browne**, whose determination and resilience inspired those in attendance as he celebrated his graduation. The College also paid tribute to the late Culinary Arts student **Brianna Clarke** by reserving a seat in her honour and presenting her posthumous graduation canister to her family, ensuring her place among the historic inaugural graduating class was forever remembered.



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Salutatorian **Fiona Benjamin**, a graduate of the Associate in Science and Mathematics (Natural Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics) programme at the Dr. Alister Francis Campus, was also recognized for outstanding academic achievement.

As the Class of 2026 celebrated this landmark achievement, graduates left with a distinction that no future class will share: the honour of being the inaugural graduating class of the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies. Their accomplishments marked not only the successful completion of their studies but also the beginning of a lasting legacy for ABCAS and for tertiary education in Antigua and Barbuda.

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