



## THE BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA GUYANA

February 28, 2025

### **Scotiabank partners with STEMGuyana to sustain its Learning Pods Programme.**

Scotiabank Guyana and STEMGuyana announced a significant partnership to sustain and enhance STEMGuyana's Learning Pods Programme. This learning initiative was founded during the COVID19 pandemic to correct learning loss among school-aged children, and currently provides after-school enrichment in Science, Mathematics, English, Technology, Robotics, and Coding for primary and secondary school students across Guyana. Approaching its 4-year anniversary, the Learning Pods Programme features 30 functioning pods across the 10 Regions of Guyana.

Through this partnership, Scotiabank Guyana has generously committed GY \$6,624,000 to STEMGuyana's Learning Pods initiative for the 2025 academic year. This investment, made under the ScotiaRISE umbrella, underscores Scotiabank's dedication to education and youth empowerment by equipping students with essential academic and digital literacy skills.

Karen Abrams, Executive Director of STEMGuyana commented "We are thrilled to have Scotiabank Guyana as a key partner in our mission to prepare young minds for the future. This support will help us to expand our reach, improve programme quality, and ensure that more students—especially those from underserved communities—have access to world-class STEM education and critical thinking training."

The Learning Pods initiative, has already impacted thousands of students across Guyana, providing structured learning environments with trained coaches, interactive lessons, and mentorship opportunities. With Scotiabank's support, the programme will integrate additional resources focused on problem-solving, and digital skills to better prepare students for academic and career success.

#### Scotiabank's Commitment to Education

As part of this collaboration, Scotiabank will also facilitate learning sessions on financial literacy for Learning Pod students and their parents/guardians. The bank's support aligns with its broader commitment to economic resilience and youth empowerment across the Caribbean.

Nafeeza Gaffoor - Country Manager, Scotiabank Guyana indicated "Education is critical in enriching the lives of our youth and helping them grow. Through this partnership with STEMGuyana we continue to support the development of our country's youth by providing

the educational support they need so that they can realise their full potential, achieve success, and bolster their life opportunities.”

### Looking Ahead

STEMGuyana and Scotiabank will work together throughout 2025 to track programme impact and ensure that students demonstrate measurable improvements in their academic performance, digital literacy, and confidence in financial management. A comprehensive impact report will be published at the end of the programme, highlighting key achievements.



Nafeeza Gaffoor, Country Manager, Scotiabank Guyana and Elsie Harry, Board Member and Fundraising Coordinator, STEMGuyana greet each other.



(L-R): Nafeeza Gaffoor, Country Manager, Scotiabank Guyana; Alisha Koulen, Operations Manager, STEMGuyana; Justin Thompson, Senior Manager, Country Management Office, Scotiabank Guyana; Elsie Harry, Board Member and Fundraising Coordinator, STEMGuyana and Bibi Alli, Senior Manager, Operations and Administration, Scotiabank Guyana display STEM branded tokens.