

AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE 2017-2018

Held on the 30th of January at St. Andrew's Auditorium, Citizencredit Co-operative Bank Ltd.'s Awards for Academic Excellence were an encouragement to the students of Citizencredit's community to keep going, and dare to dream big.



The program began with a video of the Bank's achievements, and a 'thank you' to the community as Citizencredit approaches its centennial celebrations. Everyone stood for the National Anthem, which was then followed by a prayer. Mr Anthony D'Souza, Chairman, welcomed the students and their parents to the ceremony. He congratulated the students on their accomplishments, urging them to step out of their comfort zone and strive for excellence. He encouraged his audience to be like Jadav Molai Payeng, an environmental activist and Padma Shri awardee who grew a forest, and continues to fight for it. Mr D'Souza asked the students to aim for challenging careers, to avail of Citizencredit's offers for student loans, and above all, 'plant their own mighty forest'.



Mr Christopher Mendoza, General Manager, introduced Adv. Arvind Pinto, Director on Citizencredit's Board, a Indian Revenue Service veteran who has worked with the Government, has been Chief Commissioner of Income Tax and is a legal consultant to many companies. Mr Pinto began by asking

the awardees what they planned on doing next. Highlighting the opportunities for personal growth and advancement, Mr Pinto urged the students to seek careers in India's civil services or armed forces, emphasizing the benefit of being an active part of India's growth. Speaking through personal experience, he spoke about his time serving, as one that he looks back on with a sense of achievement, at the help he has rendered. Mr Pinto's final message to the students was that they stood on the threshold of their lives, and that they could make a difference.

The Keynote Speaker for the evening was Mr Royston Braganza, who is the CEO of Grameen Capital India Ltd, and a recipient of the Global CSR Leadership Award and the Power of One Award, among others. Reminding the awardees that they were the real 'chief guests' of the event, Mr Braganza asked them to remember the acronym "STAR", where S stood for 'sustainability'- the need to be part of building a sustainable world, T stood for 'technology'- an indication to understand how technology influences lives today and leverage it to do good, A stood for 'ambition'- a reminder to follow their passion, to find what excites them, and expose themselves to various opportunities, and R stood for 'resources'- a reminder to the awardees to look for resources within, around, and up. Mr Braganza's parting message to his audience was to lead by example; to be a leader not through direction, but participation.



Citizencredit Co-operative Bank awarded over 170 students who have excelled in an array of fields, ranging from those who have completed their Doctorates and Masters, Post Graduate Diplomas, Graduates, to those who have completed their 10th and 12th Board Exams. The ceremony not only felicitated the students with scholarships, but also provided them an opportunity to interact with unique individuals/ leaders and to avail of the Take Charge mentorship program, allowing each student to walk away with both financial and physical assistance from a community proud of what they have achieved and looking forward to them making a mark of their own.