



Ambassador Beatrice Welters Remarks

**Launch of the  
Youth Ambassador Program**

Monday, March 19, 2012

at Briar Place

(As prepared)

I am very happy to be here this historic evening as we launch the Youth Ambassadors Program 2012 which is a partnership between the Department of State and Partners of the Americas.

This initiative is aimed at young people in Trinidad and Tobago who are examples in their communities.

Young people with proven leadership, a positive attitude, social consciousness, and academic excellence.

It offers them an opportunity for personal and intellectual development by first spending time making friends and learning about the United States, then performing community service projects upon their return.

The Youth Ambassadors Program underscores Secretary Clinton's priorities of engaging international youth in meaningful dialogue, fostering relationships among young people from all backgrounds, and creating networks of young leaders.

That is why this autumn, from September 4 to September 24 the very first group of Youth Ambassadors from Trinidad and Tobago will visit the United States.

The participants will truly be emissaries with the responsibility of representing their country, culture and values to increase mutual understanding.

Because we greatly value the friendship between the people of Trinidad and Tobago and the American people, we are counting on the Youth Ambassadors to develop their own skills and pursue their own dreams.

By developing themselves, they will make a contribution to both of our two countries.

They will return from the United States with new skills, perspectives, and energy to get involved in service projects in their schools and communities.

On behalf of the U.S. Embassy I would like to thank Partners of the Americas for all of their work launching this initiative.

This is a very exciting program for both our countries.

We look forward to working together getting the word out to student leaders and selecting our future ambassadors.

Tonight we will post the applications for students and mentors on our Embassy website and Facebook site – for any interested applicants.

I sincerely hope all our participants will seize the opportunity to learn from each other and from the many interesting experiences they will have in the United States.

I know this will be a unique opportunity for our Youth Ambassadors and it will certainly be an unforgettable experience.

I firmly believe the Youth Ambassador Program can only reinforce the bridges of friendship and cooperation between our two nations and help us invest in future generations.

Thank you.