

GOVERNOR'S

WORKFORCE SUMMIT 2024

*St. Croix – Tuesday, October 8, 2024 * 8AM - 3PM*
Caribbean Cinemas

Sun, Sand, and Success: Strategies for Work Excellence in the US Virgin Islands

SUMMIT AGENDA AT A GLANCE

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Welcome and a brief overview of the Summit
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Remarks
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	BREAK
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Governor's Session
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	BREAK
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Concurrent Sessions
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch
12:45 PM – 1:15 PM	Keynote Panel Discussion
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	BREAK
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions
2:30 PM – 2:35 PM	Closing Remarks

PROGRAM DETAILS

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

GOVERNOR'S SESSION

Island Innovation: Building Resilient Workforces in the Caribbean

This discussion will explore how we can engage the Caribbean diaspora in workforce development and innovation. leveraging the expertise, network, and investments of the diaspora to strengthen local economies and workforce skills, and the critical role of collaborations between government, private sector, and non-profits in building a resilient workforce.

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1. Panel Discussion: Education and Training in Transportation Industries

This panel will explore the critical role of education and training in equipping the workforce for careers in the transportation industry. It will address the current and future needs of the industry, the importance of vocational education, and the partnerships necessary to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce.

2. Panel Discussion: The Future of Work with AR/VR and AI

This panel will discuss how emerging technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Artificial Intelligence (AI), are reshaping the future of work. It will address the opportunities, challenges, and implications of these technologies for workforce development, productivity, and economic growth.

3. Panel Discussion: Charting a Course: Entrepreneurship and Business Opportunities in the Maritime Sector

This panel will explore the dynamic opportunities for entrepreneurship and business development within the maritime sector, focusing on how individuals and companies can navigate the unique challenges and capitalize on the growth potential of the maritime industry. It will address the strategies for fostering innovation, accessing resources, and building successful maritime businesses in the US Virgin Islands.

4. Panel Discussion: Building Bridges: Connecting Employers with Apprenticeship Programs

This discussion will focus on the critical role of apprenticeship programs in bridging the gap between employers and the future workforce. It will explore how these programs can be effectively designed, implemented, and scaled to meet the needs of both businesses and job seekers in the US Virgin Islands.

5. Panel Discussion: The Role of Re-Entry Programs in Workforce Development

This panel will focus on the importance of re-entry programs in providing second chances to formerly incarcerated individuals, helping them reintegrate into society, and contributing positively to the workforce. The discussion will explore best practices for re-entry programs, the challenges faced by returning citizens, and the role of employers, community organizations, and policymakers in supporting successful re-entry.

LUNCH PRESENTATION

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM **VIDOL/Equus/Core Partners Presentation**

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM **Keynote Panel Discussion:**

Integrating Foreign Workers: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Opportunities

This panel will explore the integration of foreign workers into the local workforce addressing the challenges they face and the opportunities they bring. The discussion will focus on best practices for creating an inclusive work environment, ensuring compliance with immigration laws, and maximizing the contributions of foreign workers to the economy and workplace diversity.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

1. Panel Discussion: Mastering the Art: Effective Communication in the Workplace

Panelists will explore the essential role of effective communication in the workplace, focusing on how it drives productivity, fosters collaboration, and enhances employee satisfaction. The discussion will cover key strategies for improving communication skills, overcoming common communication barriers, and creating a culture of open and transparent communication within organizations.

2. Panel Discussion: Dressing for Success: The Importance of Workplace Attire as a Soft Skill

Panelists will explore the significance of workplace attire as a key component of soft skills in professional environments. The discussion will focus on how appropriate attire impacts first impressions, workplace culture, and career advancement, as well as provide practical advice on how to navigate dress codes and personal branding in various professional settings.

3. Panel Discussion: Attract, Train, Retain: Strategies for Effective Recruitment and Employee Retention

This panel will explore the essential strategies for attracting, training, and retaining top talent in today's competitive job market. The discussion will focus on best practices in recruitment, the importance of ongoing training and development, and the key factors that contribute to employee satisfaction and long-term retention.

4. Panel Discussion: Career Pathways: Building Long-term Careers through Vocational Rehabilitation

This panel will focus on how vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs can be used not just for immediate job placement, but as a tool for building long-term, sustainable careers. The discussion will highlight strategies for developing career pathways that empower individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment to achieve professional growth, stability, and success.

5. Panel Discussion: The Ideal Team Player: Cultivating Collaboration and Excellence

This panel will explore the qualities and behaviors that define an ideal team player and how these traits contribute to team success and organizational excellence. The discussion will focus on the importance of collaboration, communication, and adaptability in team dynamics and provide strategies for individuals to enhance their effectiveness as team members.

2:30 PM – 2:35 PM

CLOSING REMARKS