

GOVERNOR'S

WORKFORCE SUMMIT 2023

OCTOBER
10th

ST. CROIX -
CARIBBEAN CINEMA, SUNNY ISLES

SEIZE THE MOMENT: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR TOMORROW!

8:00-8:45

Registration

8:45-9:00

Emcees: Michael Fazio, President, Workforce 180
Asiaah Clendinen Gumbs, Member, VI Workforce Development Board

Welcome: Michael Carty, Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board

Greetings: Honorable Gary A. Molloy, Commissioner, VI Department of Labor

9:00-9:30

Remarks: Honorable Tregenza Roach, Esq. Lieutenant Governor, United States Virgin Islands

Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor, United States Virgin Islands

9:30-9:45

Break

9:45 - 10:45

GOVERNOR'S SESSION

Keynote Panel Discussion: *Leveraging Partnerships for Economic Growth and Sustainability*

Moderator: Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor

Panelists: Keith O'Neale, Jr., President/CEO, O'Neale's Transport Inc.

Samuel Rey, President/CEO, Host-U Services & Training Consultants

Dr. David Hall, President, University of the Virgin Islands

Jed JohnHope, CEO, SFT Solutions

Panelists will explore how a skilled workforce contributes to the economic growth and sustainability of the territory; aligning workforce development with key industries and sectors; attracting and retaining talent in the territory; leveraging workforce development as a driver of overall community prosperity.

10:45-11:00

Break

11:00-12:00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

HARNESSING POTENTIAL: EMPOWERING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKFORCE

Moderator: Honorable Derek A. Gabriel, Commissioner, VI Department of Public Works

Panelists: Jason A. Battiste, Co-Founder, Certified Energy Auditor, Carib Sun Energy

Honorable Kyle Fleming, Director, VI Energy Office

What are the primary factors leading to worker shortages in the renewable energy sector?

How can interest in renewable energy careers be stimulated, particularly among young people and career changers?

What roles do renewable energy jobs play in our economy, and how can this impact be further enhanced?

DIGITAL DOMINATION: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF IT WORKFORCE

Moderator: Michael Carty, Founder & CEO, Smartnet

Panelists: Shomari Moorehead, Founder, Solutions Manager, CrucianPoint, LLC

Geraldine Pitt, Chief Executive Officer, VIYA

Kerry Twomey, Team Leader, Metrix Learning

Can businesses and educational institutions work together to address worker shortages in the IT industry?

What are the most effective ways to foster interest in IT careers, especially among underrepresented groups?

How does the growing IT sector contribute to economic development, and how can we ensure this growth is sustainable and inclusive?

MASTERING THE CRAFT: CELEBRATING AND REVITALIZING TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

Moderator: Monique M. Faulkner, Ed. D, State Director, Career Technical & Adult Education

Panelists: Shenika Sebastien, Director, State Apprenticeship Program, VI Dept. of Labor

Suzanne Darrow-Magras, PhD, Director, UVI Center For Excellence in Leadership and Learning (UVI CELL)

Richard A. Difede, President Gold Coast Yachts, Inc.

Walter L. Simmons, President & CEO, Employ Prince George's, Inc.

Delvin "Rocky" Rockhold, Program Director, Greater Ohio Workforce Board (GOWB)

Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Esq, Assistant Commissioner & Legal Counsel, VI Department of Labor

How can we promote the benefits of apprenticeships and trades careers to a wider audience?

What strategies can be implemented to address worker shortages in the trades industry?

What role do trades careers and apprenticeships play in the broader economy, and how can we maximize their impact?

EMERGING CAREERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Moderator: Leon Hughes, Founder & CEO, NEARiX

Panelists: Dr. David Hall, President, University of the Virgin Islands

Eric Sonnier, Director of Business Attraction and Entrepreneurship, UVI RT Park

Reginald Vigilant, Chief Operating Officer, Omni Systems

What are some of the most promising emerging careers that have emerged as a result of advancements in technology and the digital age?

How are these careers reshaping industries and creating new opportunities for professionals?

How can individuals prepare themselves for emerging careers in the digital age?

In what ways can traditional industries adapt and integrate digital technologies to create new roles and career paths?

How might emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, blockchain, or the Internet of Things (IoT) shape future career opportunities?

What are some potential roles and industries that could see significant growth and demand in the coming years?

STARTUP SYNERGIES: FOSTERING ENTREPRENEURIAL GROWTH AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Moderator: Sana Joseph-Smith, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Panelists: Omer ErSelcuk, President, Fly the Whale Airlines

Ted Bedwell, Co-owner, Sand Castle on the Beach

Johanna Bermúdez-Ruiz, Owner, Cane Bay Films LLC

What are the primary challenges faced by budding entrepreneurs, and how can these be addressed through training and support programs?

How can we promote entrepreneurship as a viable career path and stimulate interest in starting a business?

What role does entrepreneurship play in economic development, and how can we maximize the impact of startups on the economy?

12:00 -12:45

VIDOL/EQUUS PRESENTATION (STREAMED TO ALL)

LUNCH KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION: EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING & ITS IMPACT ON CUSTOMER SERVICE VIRGIN ISLANDS

12:45-1:15

Moderator: Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq., Lieutenant Governor, United States Virgin Islands

Panelists: Vicki Hicks, Owner/Director, Peace of St Croix, Inc / Massage Academy VI

Dr. Colvin Georges, Jr., Dean of Students, UVI's Albert A. Sheen Campus

Torhera Durand, Founder, Lokali.T, LLC

How can soft skills, such as active listening and clear expression, be used for effective communication?

How can mastering these skills lead to better understanding and collaboration in both personal and professional settings?

How does motivation, delegation, and emotional intelligence contribute to inspiring and guiding teams towards achieving common goals?

How do soft skills like patience, empathy, and a positive attitude work in providing excellent customer service?

How can these skills contribute to increased customer satisfaction and loyalty?

How does adaptability and resilience as soft skills help individuals and organizations to thrive in an ever-changing environment?

1:15-1:30

Break

1:30-2:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*SOWING SEEDS OF SUCCESS: CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURAL
WORKFORCE*

Moderator: Sommer Sibilly-Brown, Founder & Executive Director, Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition

Panelists: Honorable Louis E. Petersen Jr., PhD, Commissioner, VI Dept. of Agriculture

Dale Browne, Owner/Manager, Sejah Farms

Charlene Hodge, Director of Workforce Development, VI Dept. of Labor

Nate Olive, Owner/Director, Ridge to Reef Farm

What are the key factors contributing to worker shortages in the agricultural sector, and how can we address these challenges?

How can we enhance the appeal of agricultural careers to the next generation and career changers?

How can we promote innovative farming techniques and sustainable practices in agricultural education and training programs?

*ADDRESSING WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN HEALTHCARE: PREPARING FOR THE
FUTURE*

Moderator: Honorable Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Dept. of Health

Panelists: Michelle M. Francis, Director, Office of Health Information Technology

Dr. Julia Sheen, Interim Executive Director, Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence

Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Esq. Assistant Commissioner & Legal Counsel, VI Dep. of Labor

How can the healthcare industry address current and projected workforce shortages?

What new skills and training will be necessary for the healthcare workforce of the future?

How can the healthcare industry prepare workers to meet the demands of evolving technologies and care models?

EMPOWERING INDUSTRIES: FUTURE SKILLS FOR TODAY'S WORKFORCE

Moderator: Sana Joseph-Smith, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Panelists: Kashama Charles, RN, Real Estate Investor, Entrepreneur, Producer, Designer, Mentor

Jaughna Nielsen-Bobbit, Director of Digital Equity and Inclusion, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (VINGN)

Walter Simmons, President & CEO, Employ Prince George's, Inc.

Shomari Moorehead, Founder/Solutions Manager, CrucianPoint

Honorable Gary Molloy, Commissioner of the Department of Labor

What are the emerging trends and skill requirements in key industries such as healthcare, renewable energy, and technology?

How can businesses and educational institutions adapt to meet these evolving demands?

What role does continuous learning play in staying relevant in the current job market?

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS: EMBRACING VOCATIONAL AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Moderator: Monique M. Faulkner, Ed. D, State Director, Career, Technical & Adult Education

Panelists: Victor Somme III, Assistant Commissioner, VI Department of Education

Jo Ann Allen Murphy, Chairperson, VI Board of Career & Technical Education

Amanda Wagner, Chief Operating Officer, Employ Prince George's, Inc

Shenika Sebastien, Director, State Apprenticeship Program, VI Dept. of Labor

How can we ensure that vocational and post-secondary education programs are in sync with industry requirements?

What are the challenges and opportunities faced by students in these programs?

How can we enhance the value and perception of vocational education?

COMMUNITY AT THE CORE: INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Moderator: Jennifer Matarangas-King, Vice President of Public Relations and Governmental Affairs, VIYA

Panelists: Stephanie Chalana Brown, State Director, Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education

Emanuela Perez-Cassius, Assistant Director, Resident Wellness & Empowerment, VI Housing Authority

Ashley Scotland, Owner, Triple A Strategic Solutions, LLC

Christopher Laney, Labor Economist and Director of Government Affairs and Workforce Strategy, Lightcast

How can we build a resilient economy that promotes inclusive growth?

What strategies can be implemented to empower vulnerable communities through employment?

How can we balance economic growth with environmental sustainability?

2:45-3:00

CLOSING REMARKS

Sonia Boyce, Executive Director, VI Workforce Development Board

Sana Joseph-Smith, Governor's Policy Advisor on Workforce Development and Education