

8:00 AM – 2:35 PM

09 . 30 . 2025

GOVERNOR'S

WORKFORCE SUMMIT 2025

FUTURE PROOFING THE USVI WORKFORCE:

TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY, & TRANSFORMATION

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Registration

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Emcees: *Sana Joseph-Smith, Governor's Policy Advisor on Workforce Development & Education*
Asiah Clendinen Gumbs, Member, VI Workforce Development Board

Welcome: *Michael Carty, Chairman, VI Workforce Development Board*

Greetings: *Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Assistant Commissioner & Legal Counsel VI Department of Labor*

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Remarks: *Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor, United States Virgin Islands*

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Break

9:45 AM – 10:45 AM

GOVERNOR'S SESSION

THEATER 1

Tech-Driven Agriculture: Opportunities for Agri-Tech Entrepreneurship

Agriculture is evolving and the Virgin Islands can lead the way. This session explores how emerging technologies like hydroponics, drones, and data-driven systems are creating new business opportunities in farming and food systems.

Learn how innovation in agri-tech is empowering entrepreneurs, improving sustainability, and planting the seeds of economic growth in the Territory.

Moderator: *Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor*

Panelists: *Sommer Sibilly-Brown, Founder & Executive Director, VI Good Food Coalition*

Eric Sonnier, Executive Director, UVI Research and Technology Park (RTPark)

The Honorable Louis E. Petersen, PhD, Commissioner, VI Department of Agriculture

Rudy G. O'Reilly, Jr., District Conservationist, St. Croix Field Office, US Department of Agriculture

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Break



11:00 AM - 12:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DEVELOPING BUSINESS ECOSYSTEMS: EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH TECHNOLOGY

THEATER 1

This session centers on building a resilient, tech-enabled ecosystem where small businesses in the Virgin Islands can grow, innovate, and collaborate rather than operate in isolation.

Moderator: *Michael Carty, Founder & CEO, Smartnet*

Panelists: *Steve Lowe, CFP, Founder | EstateShield VI, LLC*

Wayne L. Biggs, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, USVI Economic Development Authority

Will Royall, Founder & CEO, PromoTix, Inc.

Philip Corey, Head of Business Solutions, Brava, US Virgin Islands, One Communications

DATA SCIENCE AND ANALYTICS: KEY SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

THEATER 4

This session focuses on the growing need for data literacy and the vast potential of data science to drive innovation, improve decision-making, and create high-value career opportunities for Virgin Islanders.

Moderator: *Jed JohnHope, CEO, Strategy Finance Technology*

Panelists: *Dr. Haldane Davies, Director, Bureau of Economic Research*

Gary Halyard, Director, Virgin Islands Bureau of Labor Statistics, VIDOL

Pamela Moolenaar-Wirsiy, Vice President of Student Success and Innovation, UVI

LUNCH PRESENTATION



12:00PM - 12:45PM

**VIDOL/EQUUS PRESENTATION (STREAMED TO ALL)
THEATER 1**

SHIFTING CURRENTS: WORKFORCE LEADERS NAVIGATING CHANGE

This conversation will examine the current state of the workforce across the territory, highlight how federal changes are impacting funding and program flexibility, share the joint strategies these agencies are implementing to remain responsive and aligned with the Vision 2040 roadmap, and offer insights into how mainland counterparts are adapting their systems during this time of transformation.

Moderator: *Laurie Christian, One Stop Operator, Equus Workforce Solutions*

Panelists: *Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, VI Department of Human Services*

Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Director of Resident Wellness and Empowerment, VIHA

**12:45PM - 1:15 PM
KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION**

***BUILDING A STRONGER WORKFORCE THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND
CERTIFICATION*** **THEATER 1**

This session focuses on how career and technical education (CTE), trades, and industry-recognized certifications can equip Virgin Islanders of all ages with the hands-on skills needed to fill critical roles, earn competitive wages, and build sustainable life.

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

Panelists: *Michelle Day, National Workforce Solutions Director, Equus Workforce Solutions*

Suzanne Darrow-Magras, PhD, Director, UVI CELL

Ayanda Daniels, Member, VI Workforce Development Board

BREAK- 1:15-1:30

1:30-2:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

***CREATING A GLOBAL WORKFORCE: TRAINING FOR REMOTE
WORK AND OUTSOURCED SERVICES*** **THEATER 4**

This session highlights how Virgin Islanders can tap into the global economy without leaving home by preparing for remote work, virtual freelancing, and outsourcing service industries.

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

Panelists: *Sydney Paul, Director of Marketing, UVI Research & Technology Park Corporation*

Angela East-Jascen, Leadership and Teambuilding Facilitator

Shomari Moorehead, Founder/Solutions Manager, CrucianPoint

INNOVATING FOR SUSTAINABILITY: CLEAN ENERGY CAREERS IN THE USVI

THEATER 1

This panel focuses on how the clean energy movement is creating career opportunities across solar, wind, energy efficiency, grid tech, and green infrastructure and how the Virgin Islands can train its workforce for a more sustainable and resilient future.

Moderator: *Karl Knight, CEO, VI Water and Power Authority*

Panelists: *Kyle Fleming, Director, VI Energy Office*

Gregory Guannel, Director, Caribbean Green Technology, UVI

**BEST PRACTICES FOR LAUNCHING AND MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

THEATER 5

This session empowers employers, educators, government agencies, and workforce leaders with the insight and tools needed to create impactful apprenticeship programs that lead to long-term employment and economic development in the US Virgin Islands.

Moderator: *Sana Joseph-Smith, Governor’s Policy Advisor on Workforce Development & Education*

Panelists: *David Genaro, Regional Director, Equus Workforce Solutions*

Kerry Twomey, Director, Account Management, Metrix Learning / Workforce180

**BRIDGING EMPLOYMENT ACCESS: AN AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
JOURNEY IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

THEATER 7

This session will explore how agencies are aligning efforts to create accessible pathways to employment for individuals with disabilities. Through education, employer engagement, workforce development, and advocacy, they are helping to dismantle attitudinal, physical, and systemic barriers that hinder equal opportunity

Moderator: *Shammi Carr, Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands*

Panelists: *Edidiong Utibe, Representative of the Governor’s ADA Office*

Monquie Bute, Executive Director, VI Association for Independent Living (VIAIL)

Kimberly-Joy Washington, Acting Director, Vocational Rehabilitation, VI Department of Human Services

Camellia Williams, HR Talent Retention and ADA Coordinator, Schneider Regional Medical Center

Don Peters, Adapted Driving Consultant (STX)

**2:30 PM - 2:35 PM
CLOSING REMARKS**

Sonia Boyce, Executive Director, VI Workforce Development Board

Sana Joseph-Smith, Governor’s Policy Advisor on Workforce Development & Education

