

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

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

GOVERNOR’S YOUTH SESSION

THEATER 2

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

DREAM IT, THEN DO IT: BUILDING A BOLD VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE

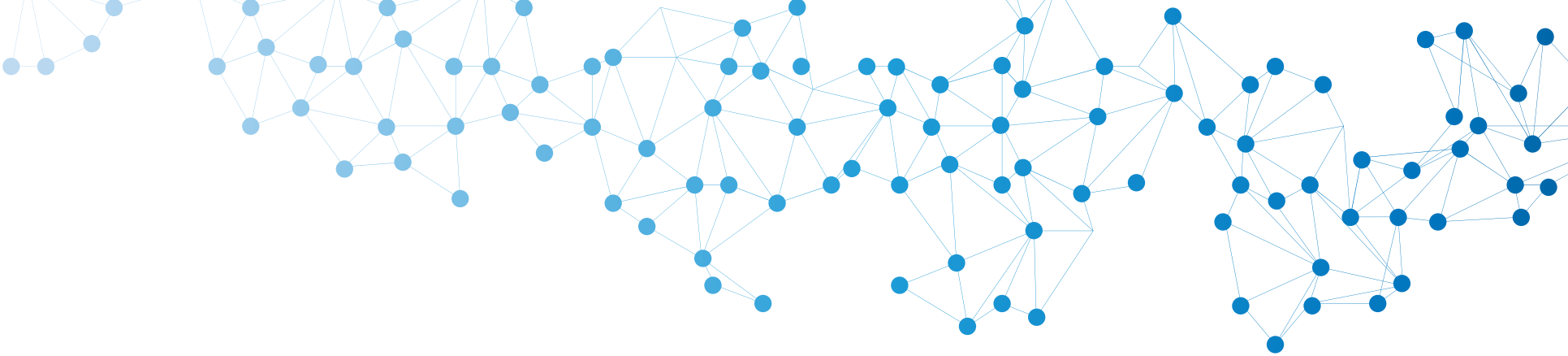
What if your biggest dream isn’t too big, it’s just waiting for you to believe? This empowering session invites youth of the Virgin Islands to explore what’s possible when they combine imagination with action.

Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. will share how shaping bold goals, staying focus despite challenges, can turn ideas into impact.

Walk away inspired, equipped, and ready to design a powerful vision for your future.

12:00 PM -12:15 PM

LUNCH BREAK



12:15 PM - 1:20PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

WHAT EMPLOYERS REALLY WANT: MASTERING SOFT SKILLS AND FIRST IMPRESSIONS **THEATER 2**

In today’s competitive job market, technical skills get your foot in the door, but soft skills seal the deal. This interactive panel explores the qualities employers value most, from communication and attitude to problem-solving and professionalism. Learn what makes a lasting first impression and how to stand out in any hiring process.

Moderator: *Marcy Heistand, VP Caribbean, Fly the Whale*

Panelists: *Cindy Richardson, Director, VI Division of Personnel*

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

Reginald Vigilant, Chief Operating Officer, Omni Systems

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

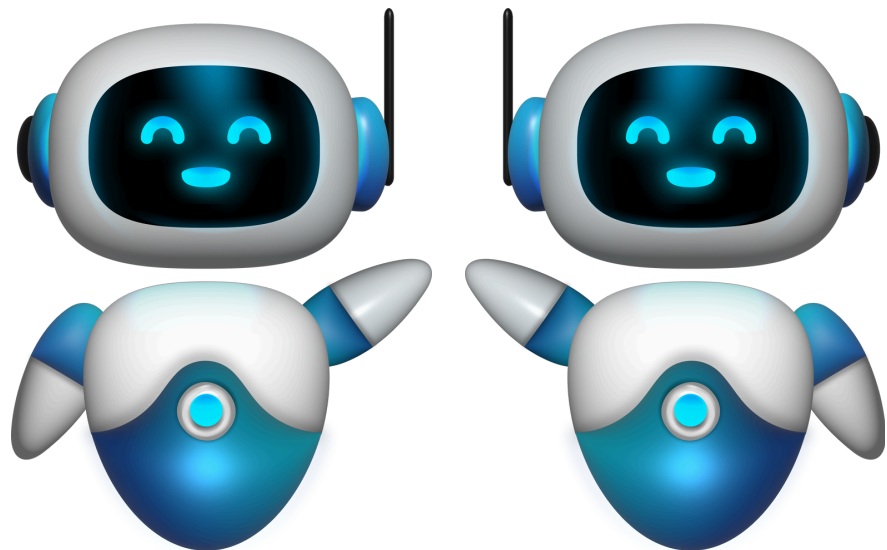
EARN WHILE YOU LEARN: APPRENTICESHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, AND WORK-BASED LEARNING **THEATER 3**

Work-based learning is transforming how we prepare for careers. This session drives into the power of “earning while learning”, from formal apprenticeships and internships to job shadowing and on-the-job training. Join workforce leaders, employers, and educators to explore how these models can expand career pathways and provide real-time skills that lead to lasting employment.

Moderator: *Khalil Al-Arefi, Project Director, EQUUS Workforce Solutions*

Panelists: *Kate Freeman, Operations Supervisor, St. Croix, VI, Equus Workforce Solutions*

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



1:20 PM - 2:25 PM
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
THEATER 2

WELLNESS WINS: BALANCING MENTAL HEALTH, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND REAL LIFE

How do we stay mentally strong in a world of digital distractions, pressure to perform, and nonstop connection? This timely session explores the mental wellness challenges faced by youth, workers, and professionals in the age of social media. Join health experts, educators, influencers, and advocates as they offer practical tools for managing stress, creating balance, and protecting emotional health while staying connected to what matters.

Moderator: *The Honorable Justa “Tita” Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health*

Panelists: *Tarik McMillan, Co-Founder, Greater Changes LLC*

Marcus Moorhead, LPC, Mental Health Counselor, Island Therapy Solutions

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

ASK THE EXPERTS – CANDID CONVERSATIONS WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS
THEATER 3

This dynamic, unscripted session puts the spotlight on top professionals from key industries shaping the future of the Virgin Islands. Attendees get a rare opportunity to hear honest reflections on what it takes to succeed, how to navigate change, and what leaders are really looking for in the next generation of talent. Come curious, this is your chance to ask the experts directly.

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

Panelists: *Adrienne Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery*

Winona Hendricks, Former Educator

Stephanie Chalana Brown, Director, Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education VI Department of Education

2:25 PM - 2:30 PM
CLOSING REMARKS

Sonia Boyce, Executive Director, VI Workforce Development Board

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

