

GOVERNOR'S

WORKFORCE SUMMIT 2023

OCTOBER
12th

ST. THOMAS -
CARIBBEAN CINEMA, USVI MARKET SQUARE

SEIZE THE MOMENT: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR TOMORROW!

8:00-8:45

Registration

8:45-9:00

Emcees: Michael Fazio, President, Workforce 180
Asiah 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: *Making Technology Work for Us: Strengthening Our Economy and Our Workforce*

Moderator: Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr., Governor

Panelists: Michael Carty, Founder & CEO, Smartnet

Daryl Wade, Chief Information Officer, ViNGN

Michael DelGiacco, General Partner, Twin City Fund

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

Panelists will discuss a wide range of topics including, but not limited to:

- Expanding the Virgin Islands Next Generation Network's DEAL initiative.
- Building robust tech infrastructure and conducive policy environment.
- Promoting education and workforce development to create a tech-savvy workforce.
- Incorporating existing industries into a tech-forward model. Encouraging tech startup growth and attracting venture capital.
- Assessing the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of tech transformation.

10:45-11:00

Break

11:00-12:00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ENTREPRENEURIAL EVOLUTION: DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATION AND TRAINING

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

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

John M. Morosco, State Director, VI Small Business Development Center

David Genaro, Regional Director, Equus Workforce Solutions

Shenika Sebastien, Director of Youth and Apprenticeship, VI Dept. of Labor

How can we provide the necessary support and resources to nurture entrepreneurial ventures and innovation? What strategies can be implemented to spark interest in entrepreneurship, particularly among young Virgin Islanders and career changers? How does entrepreneurship training contribute to economic development, and how can this impact be maximized?

EMBRACING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Moderator: Michael Carty, Founder & CEO, Smartnet

Panelists: Geraldine Pitt, CEO, VIYA

Reginald Vigilant, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, Omni Systems

Craig Matthias, Owner/President, Cutting Edge Technology

Kerry Twomey, Team Leader, Metrix Learning

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

What can be done to ensure equitable access to digital resources and infrastructure for all workers? How can we increase digital literacy among older workers and those in low-income communities? What role can partnerships between tech companies, governments, and non-profit organizations play in addressing the digital divide? How does the digital divide impact workforce development, and how can this be addressed?

THE POWER OF PERSONAL BRANDING IN CAREER GROWTH

Moderator: Stacy Charles, Founder and Lead Strategist, Grande Agency

Panelists: Shanell Petersen, Founder, L3 Productions, LLC

Peter Bailey, Author and Filmmaker

Heath George, Chairman, Time Capsule Media Group

What does personal branding mean in the context of career growth, and why is it important for professionals to develop and nurture their personal brand? How can personal branding contribute to career advancement and opportunities? What are some best practices and potential pitfalls to be aware of when using digital platforms for personal branding purposes? How does personal branding intersect with networking and professional relationships? How can a strong personal brand enhance networking opportunities and open doors for career growth and collaboration?

BUILDING BRIDGES: CONNECTING TALENT WITH OPPORTUNITY

Moderator: Marcy Heistand, Vice President – Caribbean, Fly the Whale

Panelists: Mario Francis, Principal, Raphael O. Wheatley Skill Center

Lindsay Askew, Chief Business Development Officer, The Strategy Group

Masserae Sprauve-Webster, CEO, Frederiksted Health Care, Inc

Dexter Freeman, Manager, Network Services at AT&T

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

**What are the key factors that facilitate a smooth transition from education to employment?
How can businesses and educational institutions collaborate to streamline this process?
What role do apprenticeships and training programs play in enhancing employability?**

UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING THE WORKFORCE

Moderator: Tatetia Dorsett, Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor

Panelists: Honorable Cindy Richardson, Director, Division of Personnel

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

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

Khalil Al-Arefi, Project Director, USVI, Equus Workforce Solutions

Honorable Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner, VI Department of Health

**How can training programs be designed to provide workers with the skills necessary to adapt to changing industry trends and technological advancements?
What are the most promising technological advancements in the workforce development space, and how can we best equip workers and employers to take advantage of them?
How can the Virgin Islands workforce system create more inclusive and equitable career pathways for workers, and what training programs and policies can be put in place to support this effort?**

12:00 -12:45

VIDOL/EQUUS PRESENTATION (STREAMED TO ALL)

12:45-1:15 LUNCH KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION:
RIDING THE WAVE OF AI: THE FUTURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Moderator: Mike Fazio, Co-President, Workforce 180

Panelists: Bob Birge, Client Experience, Geographic Solutions

Shomari Moorehead, Founder/Solutions Manager, CrucianPoint, LLC

Max Schelkopf, Senior Mobile Solutions Consultant, Engage by Cell

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1:15-1:30

Break

1:30-2:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*CRAFTING CAREERS: THE RENAISSANCE OF APPRENTICESHIP AND TRADES
INDUSTRY*

Moderator: Suzanne Darrow-Magras, PhD, Director, UVI CELL

Panelists: Natalie Knight, Insurance Agent, Mutual of Omaha, Member VI Workforce Development Board

Alkin Paul, Project Manager/Owner, Unparalleled Vision LLC

Delvin “Rocky” Rockland, Program Director, Greater Ohio Workforce Board (GOWB)

Bob Birge, Client Experience, Geographic Solutions

Shenika Sebastien, Director of Youth and Apprenticeship, VI Department of Labor

What methods can be used to reignite interest in apprenticeships and trades careers, particularly among younger generations?

How can we overcome the challenges of worker shortages in these sectors?

How do these careers contribute to the strength and diversity of our economy, and how can we maximize their impact?

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Moderator: Angel E. Dawson, Jr., Administrator/CEO, Government Employee Retirement System (GERS)

Panelists: Kyle Sexius, Financial Education Entrepreneur

Shomari Moorehead, Founder, Solutions Manager, CrucianPoint, LLC

Jed JohnHope, CEO, SFT Solutions

Iffat Walker, Founder and Executive Director of Community Action NOW!

How can we prepare the workforce for the increasing digitization and automation in the financial services industry?

What strategies can be adopted to address the skill gaps in the emerging fintech sector?

How can we ensure diversity and inclusion within the financial services industry?

What role do partnerships between educational institutions and industry players play in workforce development?

How can we promote continuous learning and professional development in the financial services industry?

*CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THE TRADES: AN UNTAPPED
GOLDMINE*

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

Panelists: Eduardo J. Cornerio, Retired Educator

Monique Richards, Career & Technical Education Coordinator, VI Department of Education

Mario Francis, Principal, Raphael O. Wheatley Skill Center

Honorable Gary Molloy, Commissioner, VI Department of Labor

What are some of the key advantages and benefits of career and technical education and pursuing a trade as a career path?

In what ways can society change the prevailing narrative that portrays career and technical education and the trades as less prestigious or inferior to traditional academic pathways?

What measures can be taken to address the existing skills gap in the trades industry and ensure that there are enough skilled workers to meet the growing demand in various sectors?

How can we make these career paths more appealing and financially rewarding?

REBUILDING THE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY WORKFORCE

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

Panelists: Scott Derrickson, General Manager, Marriott Frenchman's Cove Resort

Lisa Hamilton, President, USVI Hotel & Tourism Association

Dr. Nathan Austin, Professor & Chair, UVI Hospitality Program

Kalina Kennedy, General Manager, Margaritaville Wyndham

Arjun Channa, General Manager, Ritz Carlton Resort

How can the industry rebuild its workforce, which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and what new training programs may be necessary to ensure that workers are equipped with the skills needed for the post-pandemic landscape?

How can the industry train workers to navigate changing consumer expectations in the tourism and hospitality sector, such as increased demand for sustainable and socially responsible practices?

How can the industry provide workers with the training and development opportunities necessary to advance their careers within the tourism and hospitality sector, and what are some best practices in this area?

LEADING THE CHARGE: EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

Panelists: Shirley Lake-King, Vice President of Administration and Finance, UVI

Amber Alexander, Job Developer, Island Therapy Solutions

Jean Forde Assistant Commissioner, VI Department of Labor

Monique C. Creque, Director of Partner Relations, VI Department of Education

What are the key leadership skills required to drive economic progress in the Virgin Islands?

How can policy makers and business leaders work together to create a thriving business landscape?

What are some successful strategies for sustainable economic development?

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