

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, Esq., Assistant Commissioner & Legal Counsel, VI Department of Labor*

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

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

Bridging the Digital Divide: Expanding IT Skills and Opportunities

Access to digital skills and tools is now essential for education, employment, and entrepreneurship. This session explores how to close the digital gap in the Virgin Islands and connect more residents to technology training, career pathways in IT, and the future of remote work.

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

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

Herman Hart, Vice President & Manager IT Facilities & Security Services, Banco Popular

Daryl Wade, Chief Information Officer, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN)

Siobhan James-Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, One Communications (VI) Inc

10:45 AM -11:00 AM

Break





11:00 AM - 12:00PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES: THE IMPACT OF AI, AR/VR, AND ROBOTICS ON JOBS THEATER 1

From artificial intelligence and automation to immersive AR/VR experiences, this session explores how transformative technologies are changing the nature of work and what it means for employers, job seekers, students, and entrepreneurs in the Virgin Islands. Discover the opportunities, risks, and real-world strategies for staying ahead in a rapidly evolving digital economy.

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

Panelists: *Reginald Vigilant, Co-Founder & Chief Operating Officer, Omni Systems*

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

Langley Shazor, IT Project Manager, Bureau of Information Technology

THE FUTURE OF TOURISM: TECH INTEGRATION FOR VISITOR EXPERIENCES THEATER 4

What happens when tradition meets innovation? This engaging panel explores how emerging technologies like digital storytelling, AR/VR, and mobile platforms are transforming visitor experiences across the Virgin Islands. Learn how businesses, creatives, and tourism workers can harness tech to connect more deeply with travelers, grow revenue, and shape the future of the Territory's #1 industry.

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

Panelists: *Ian Tomlinson, Chairman, UVI Research and Technology Park (RTPark) Board*

Ginger Carrington, Business Development Executive, Geographic Solutions

Lisa Hamilton, President, USVI Hotel & Tourism Association

Siobhan James-Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, One Communications (VI) Inc

E-COMMERCE AS A GAME-CHANGER: EXPORTING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FROM THE USVI THEATER 6

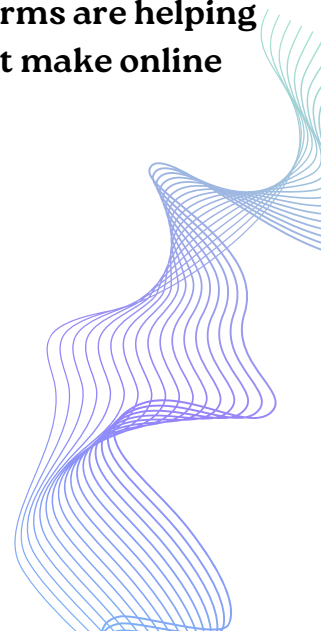
From handmade goods and digital art to consulting and coaching, this panel explores how Virgin Islanders are building income and exporting value through the global e-commerce economy. Learn how platforms are helping businesses go international and how YOU can tap into the tools, training, and partnerships that make online success possible.

Moderator: *Shomari Moorehead, Founder/Solutions Manager, CrucianPoint*

Panelists: *Stephon E. Smith, Marketing Coordinator, One Communications (VI) Inc*

Steve Lowe, CFP, Founder, EstateShield VI, LLC

Nadine Marchena Kean, Managing Director, EZC, VI Economic Development Authority



LUNCH PRESENTATION

12:00PM - 12:45PM

VIDOL/EQUUS PRESENTATION (STREAMED TO ALL)

SHIFTING CURRENTS: WORKFORCE LEADERS NAVIGATING CHANGE

THEATER 1

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: *Nesha Christian, Esq., Asst Commissioner and Legal Council, VI Dept. of Labor*

Khalil Al-Arefi, Project Director, EQUUS Workforce Solutions

Francis, Principal, PhD., Ralph Wheatley Skill Center

12:45PM - 1:15 PM

KEYNOTE PANEL DISCUSSION

CHARTING A COURSE : REVITALIZING THE USVI INDUSTRY FOR JOBS AND GROWTH

THEATER 1

The sea has always been part of our identity but today, it can also drive our future. This session brings together visionaries, educators, business leaders, and policy shapers to explore how the US Virgin Islands can revitalize its maritime sector through training, innovation, infrastructure, and job creation. Let's anchor our economy in opportunity.

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

Panelists: *Safiya George, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNAP, President, University of the Virgin Islands*

Kennon Jones, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association

Joseph Cranston, Marine Manager, Virgin Islands Port Authority

BREAK- 1:15-1:30

1:30-2:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR ISLAND YOUTH: ALIGNING TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH GLOBAL TRENDS

THEATER 4

How do we ensure our young people are not just workforce-ready, but world-ready? This session explores how training programs in the Virgin Islands can evolve to prepare youth for high-opportunity careers in tech, trades, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and beyond. Discover strategies that blend innovation, mentorship, and equity to help island youth succeed at home and on the global stage.

Moderator: *Dr. Monique Faulkner, State Director, State Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education*

Panelists: *Christine Miller, National Workforce Trainer, Miller Consulting*

Dee Adams, Human Resources Business Director, Hampton by Hilton- St. Thomas

Dr. Mario Francis, Principal, Raphael O. Wheatley Skills Center

The Honorable Althea Stevens, New York City Council, 16th Council District

Carla Scott, Member, VI Workforce Development Board

Ayanda Daniels, Member, VI Workforce Development Board

**CYBERSECURITY IN THE USVI: PROTECTING DIGITAL
INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUSINESSES**

THEATER 1

As more Virgin Islands businesses, agencies, and schools move online, the risk of cyberattacks increases. This session explores how the USVI can strengthen its digital infrastructure, raise cybersecurity awareness, and train a new generation of cyber professionals. Learn best practices, real-world insights, and local strategies to protect your data, systems, and digital future.

Moderator: *Kevin Williams, Sr., Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor*

Panelists: *Marcus Ready, Chief Information Technology Officer, VI Department of Education*

Jaughna Nielsen-Bobbit, MPH, Director of Community Engagement, VI Next Generation Network

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

Gordon Slaton, Subject Matter Expert, Information Security, Technical Lead for Cybersecurity Test & Evaluation (T&E), I3PG, LLC

Horace Jones, President, U.S. HART CARES

**PREPARING FOR TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE: BUILDING STEM/STEAM EDUCATION
PATHWAYS**

THEATER 6

This session dives into how schools, community organizations, and industry leaders can collaborate to prepare Virgin Islands students for the jobs of tomorrow. Learn how STEM and STEAM education is transforming classrooms, inspiring innovation, and creating new opportunities for students to explore high-demand careers in technology, science, engineering, arts, and more.

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

Panelists: *Dr. Stanley Lorbach, Program Advisor/Educator, My Brother's Workshop*

Khadeem DeSilvia, Medicolegal Death Investigator, Dept. of Justice

Ky'Jahna Gerard, Network Security Administrator, Bureau of Information Technology

Howard Forbes, Jr., CMES/VIMAS, Outreach Coordinator and Biologist, UVI

**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: *Kimberly-Joy Washington, Acting Director, Vocational Rehabilitation, VI Department of Human Services*
Shammi Carr, Disability Advocate, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands

Panelists: *Monique Bute, Executive Director, VI Association for Independent Living (VIAIL)*

Julien Henley, Sr., USVI Territorial ADA Coordinator, Office of the Governor

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

**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