

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
Board on Higher Education and Workforce

**University of the Virgin Islands Virtual Town Hall--Rethinking the
STEM Pipeline: A Holistic Approach to Student Preparation for the
STEM Workforce**

November 16, 2021 | 1:00-3:30p EST

Webcast Live Here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/11-16-2021/university-of-the-virgin-islands-virtual-town-hall-successes-in-stem-education-research-and-workforce-preparedness>

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and the University of the Virgin Islands invite you to join a virtual town hall. The University of the Virgin Islands, an HBCU, serves approximately 1800 students on two campuses with 40 miles of ocean between. It serves as a hub of learning for students and the community alike, including local USVI students, students from 21 states and international students (15%) primarily from islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

The University of the Virgin Islands takes a holistic approach to URM STEM student preparation focusing on Pre-College, Undergraduate, and Early Career facilitation. Faculty and staff innovate to increase engage students throughout their academic journey using community outreach, teacher PD programs, culturally relevant curriculum, student research opportunities, faculty mentoring and continued structures of support for novel STEM professionals. The University of the Virgin Islands has developed a student-centered retention model, The UVI Growth Model, based on building capacity for success in the STEM workforce through developing psychosocial strengths, academic performance, research skills and professionalism. The University boosts the economic possibilities for students and the surrounding community by embracing being historically American, uniquely Caribbean, and globally interactive.

This event is one in a series of town halls NASEM is conducting in collaboration with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to (1) promote the findings of the 2019 National Academies report, [Minority Serving Institutions: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce](#), (2) hear how MSIs are working to advance STEM workforce preparation, education, and research capacity, and (3) foster new discussions and solutions around these issues. The audience will have an opportunity to engage with speakers during Q&A.

1:00-1:10 PM WELCOME

Introduction from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
Medicine

Dr. Camille McKayle, Provost, University of the Virgin Islands

1:10-1:20 PM Greetings from Dr. David Hall, President, University of the Virgin Islands

**1:20-1:30 PM Introduction Rethinking the STEM Pipeline: A Holistic Approach to Student
Preparation for the STEM Workforce**

Dr. Lawanda Cummings, STEM Education Director/Workforce Development,

Virgin Islands-Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR)

1:30-2:00 PM Pre-College and Community Outreach

Mr. Jarvon Stout, Community Engagement Specialist, VI-EPSCoR

Ms. Rosalia Rohan, Director of University Bound, UVI

Dr. Nadia Monrose Mills, Assistant Professor of Mathematics/Component Lead for Teacher Professional Development (VI-EPSCoR)

Moderated by Dr. Michelle Peterson, Interim Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, UVI

2:00-2:40 PM College-undergraduate/higher education

Dr. Michele Guannel, Assistant Professor of Biology, UVI; Undergraduate Education Research Lead, VI-EPSCoR

Dr. Molly Perry, Assistant Professor of History and Geography, UVI

Dr. Nadia Monrose Mills, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, UVI/Component Lead for Teacher Professional Development (VI-EPSCoR)

Ms. Aimee Sanchez, Emerging Caribbean Scientists Programs Grants Manager

Moderated by Dr. Karen Brown, Dean of the School of Education, UVI

2:40-3:20PM Early Career STEM Supports

Dr. Karyl Askew, Senior Research Scientist, Center for the Advancement of STEM Leadership (CASL), UVI

Dr. Verleen McSween, Assistant Professor of Biology/Component Lead for Mentoring and Research Infrastructure (VI-EPSCoR)

Dr. Lawanda Cummings, Director of STEM Education Research (VI-EPSCoR)/ Director of Florida-Caribbean Louis Stokes Regional Center of Excellence

Moderated by Dr. Lawanda Cummings

3:20-3:30 PM CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Kim Waddell, PI/Director of the Virgin Islands Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR)

3:30 PM ADJOURN

This activity is co-hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the University of the Virgin Islands, with the support of the Department of Defense HBCU/MI Program and the ECMC Foundation.

NOTES

- For more information on this event: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/11-16-2021/university-of-the-virgin-islands-virtual-town-hall-successes-in-stem-education-research-and-workforce-preparedness>
- This meeting will be livestreamed and archived for future viewing at the link provided at the top of this document, along with presentation materials.
- Public participants may submit questions for speakers online while viewing the webcast.

- Full speaker bios can be found here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/11-16-2021/university-of-the-virgin-islands-virtual-town-hall-successes-in-stem-education-research-and-workforce-preparedness>