



## THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## **JAG-VI Students Represent the Virgin Islands at National Career Development Conference in Indianapolis**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education is proud to share that a group of exceptional students from the Jobs for America's Graduates Virgin Islands (JAG-VI) program recently represented the Territory at the prestigious National Career Development Conference (NCDC) held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Their participation was a shining example of excellence, leadership, and commitment to personal and academic growth.

Each year, JAG students from across the country gather for the NCDC Competitive Events Program, where they showcase their talents in more than a dozen categories. This year's competition featured events such as Outstanding Chapter presentations, Business Plan Development, Financial Literacy, Prepared Speaking, and the highly competitive Knowledge Bowl. JAG-VI students rose to the challenge and stood out among the best and brightest from across the nation.

A highlight of the trip was having two students serve as National Voting Delegates, representing the Virgin Islands in shaping the future of the JAG national organization. These students played a vital role in reviewing and voting on key decisions, including the election of national officers and policy proposals. Their leadership, professionalism, and thoughtful contributions reflected the caliber of young leaders emerging from our local program.

In addition to our delegates, six other students engaged in a range of competitive events, including Employability Skills and Career Preparation. While they did not advance to the final rounds, the experience was transformative. Competing among their peers from across the country challenged them to step outside their comfort zones, develop greater confidence, and gain valuable insights to carry forward in their academic and professional journeys.

Beyond the competitions, students took part in dynamic professional development workshops and built connections with peers from various states, expanding their horizons and deepening their understanding of career readiness. A special highlight of the trip was a visit to the legendary Indiana Motor Speedway Museum, located within the track of the iconic Indy 500, which left a lasting impression on many.

"We are incredibly proud of our JAG-VI students for representing the Virgin Islands with determination and excellence. Their efforts reflect the transformative power of the JAG program and the boundless potential of our young people," said Commissioner Wells-Hedrington.

The VIDE thanks the JAG-VI program leaders, advisors, families, and supporters who helped make this opportunity possible. Most importantly, we thank our students for being outstanding ambassadors of the Virgin Islands. Their professionalism, courage, and growth during this experience truly embodied the spirit of JAG. We look forward to witnessing all they will accomplish in the future.

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