



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Unveils VI-Centric Civics Textbook

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) proudly announces the unveiling of the VI-Centric Civics Textbook during a special ceremony taking place today, Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Government House, St. Croix from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. This momentous occasion will feature the official unveiling of the textbook, a demonstration of its accompanying eBook, and remarks from distinguished contributors, dignitaries, government officials, and VIDE leadership.

Leading the project are Dr. Lauren Larsen, VI-Centric Civics Project Coordinator, and Dr. Yvette McMahon-Arnold, VI-Centric Civics Project Facilitator, whose expertise and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life. VIDE expresses its deep gratitude to the numerous content reviewers, community partners, and government officials whose unwavering support and contributions have made this initiative possible.

The VI-Centric Civics Textbook was developed to fulfill the mandates of Act 7934, passed by the 31st Legislature of the Virgin Islands. This legislation calls for a structured civics course for grades 9-12, utilizing materials relevant to the Virgin Islands and detailing the functions of the three branches of government and the roles of public officials. The textbook serves as an academic resource tailored specifically for Virgin Islands learners, offering students a comprehensive understanding of their local and national governments while fostering an appreciation for their roles as responsible citizens.

A key feature of the initiative is the integration of a digital version of the textbook into the VIDE Learning Management System (LMS). This online platform provides students and educators with access to additional digital media and resources, enhancing learning experience and aligning with modern educational practices.

About the VI-Centric Civics Textbook

Civic education is essential for fostering a strong national identity and a thriving democracy. The VI-Centric Civics Textbook equips students with knowledge of democratic principles, their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and the frameworks of local and national governance. Designed to promote civic responsibility and community engagement, the textbook combines traditional learning methods with innovative digital components to provide relevant and engaging educational experience.

The textbook will empower high school students across the Virgin Islands to understand their government's intricacies and their role in shaping the Territory's future. The VI-Centric Civics initiative is a testament to the collaborative efforts of educators, political leaders, and community members committed to enhancing civic education for the Territory's students and the broader Virgin Islands community.

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