



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Concludes Transformative Spring Series of Girls in STEAM Saturday Camps

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE), through its Division of STEAM Education, proudly concluded the Spring 2025 Girls in STEAM Saturday Camp series, an enriching educational journey that empowered over 90 girls across the Territory through dynamic, hands-on experiences in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics. This series was led by State STEM Director Dr. Shamika Williams.

With imagination ignited and futures inspired, the Girls in STEAM Camps were held from February through May 2025. The Saturday camp series offered students between the ages of 8 and 12 an opportunity to discover their voices, expand their horizons, and explore the endless possibilities that STEAM learning can offer. Through six uniquely themed sessions across St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix, girls from public and non-public schools engaged in real-world problem-solving, cultural exploration, environmental stewardship, and creative expression.

- On St. Thomas, students explored coastal ecology and conservation, participating in a mangrove planting initiative that taught the value of preserving our natural environment. Another session focused on upcycling and robotics, allowing students to construct robots while learning about sustainability and innovation.
- On St. Croix, a session on art, culture, and chemistry blended visual storytelling with a hands-on lip balm chemistry activity. Additionally, participants conducted soil and water experiments and engineered balloon-powered cars, building scientific thinking and teamwork.
- On St. John introduced students to entrepreneurship and environmental care, including a beautification project and mentorship from a young business leader.

The success of Girls in STEAM was made possible through the incredible support of dedicated community partners, including Cane Bay Cares' Operation Inspire Program - Ms. Janella Simon; Caribbean Museum and Center for the Arts (CMCArts) - Lisa Mordhorst and Jessica Parker-White; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Sigma Theta Omega Chapter's Youth Leadership Program - Lucinda Parsons; Department of Planning and Natural Resources' Coastal Zone Management Division - Zola Roper; Virgin Islands Conservation Society's Eco-Schools Virgin Islands Program - Zoe Banfield; University of the Virgin Islands' Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS) - Howard Forbes, Jr.; Ms. Jonelle Rosario; Ms. Kezia Corbett; and VIDE divisions and district leaders who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring the vision to life.

With the success of this year's program, the Division of STEAM Education is excited to announce the return of the Saturday camp series in the 2025–2026 school year, reimagined as STEAM Squad Saturdays. This next chapter will expand to include both girls and boys, offering a more inclusive, empowering space for all students to explore, innovate, and lead through the lens of STEAM education. The VIDE is committed to creating engaging, inclusive, and transformative learning experiences that prepare our students not only for the classroom, but for the future.

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