



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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ITMS Group Sponsors Reading Challenge Winners' Attendance at 2025 American Library Association Conference

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) proudly announces that thanks to the generous sponsorship of ITMS Group, two distinguished librarians and the St. Thomas-St. John (STTJ) District's Director of Professional Development experienced an unparalleled professional learning opportunity by attending the 2025 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition, held in Philadelphia from June 26–30, 2025.

As part of the grand prize for the Apps4Gaps Reading Challenge, librarians Janice Ferdinand (St. Croix District) and Shiegfred Arambala (St. Thomas-St. John District), along with STTJ Professional Development Director Michealrose Ravalier, engaged in an immersive experience exploring literacy tools, resources, and cutting-edge technologies. From global publishing innovations to emerging educational platforms, attendees delved into everything from advanced digital databases to “Romi,” the AI-powered librarian designed to automate book checkouts and assist users in locating materials.

Hosted by U.S. Territories Representative Beatriz Fusari, the team maximized their time in Philadelphia by attending robust conference programming and visiting iconic historical sites, blending professional growth with rich cultural experiences.

“The ALA Conference was more than just a professional development event, it was a vision-building experience,” said Michealrose Ravalier, Director of Professional Development. “Our librarians returned energized and equipped with innovative strategies to promote literacy and transform school libraries into hubs for 21st-century learning.”

This initiative exemplifies ITMS Group's steadfast commitment to literacy, education, and innovation. VIDE extends its sincere appreciation to ITMS Group for their continued partnership and dedication to empowering Virgin Islands educators.

With renewed insights and inspiration, these educators are prepared to reimagine literacy and strengthen educational outcomes across the Territory.

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