



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

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## **Former Boxing Champion Michael Nunn Partners with VIDE to Promote Positive Choices for Students**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education’s Division of Sports and Athletics, in partnership with the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Office of the Governor’s Office of Gun Violence Prevention, and the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation, will host the “Put Down the Guns, Pick Up the Gloves” initiative taking place this week from February 2 – 6, 2026.

This impactful event is designed to engage and inspire students through meaningful dialogue, mentorship, and positive alternatives to violence using sports as a vehicle for discipline, focus, and personal growth.

Bernalyn Tomeau, Director of the Division of Sports and Athletics, is pleased to share that the featured guest speaker is Michael Nunn. As a former professional boxer, he competed from 1984 to 2002 and achieved distinction as a two-division world champion. Nunn held the IBF Middleweight Title from 1988 to 1991 and the WBA Super Middleweight Title from 1992 to 1994, serving as the lineal champion during both reigns. In recognition of his outstanding career and lasting impact on the sport, he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, Class of 2025.

Mr. Nunn will meet with high school students on St. Thomas and St. Croix to share his personal narrative on life choices, accountability, perseverance, and personal responsibility. His experiences will provide students with a powerful, real-world perspective on overcoming adversity, navigating challenges, and making positive decisions that shape their future.

“Through this collaborative initiative, partnering agencies reaffirm their commitment to violence prevention, youth empowerment, and community well-being encouraging young people to put down the guns and choose paths that lead to purpose, opportunity, and success,” shared Director Tomeau.

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