

ST. CROIX SOURCE

Published on *St. Croix Source* (<http://stcroixsource.com>)

viNGN Launches 2nd Component to 'A Better You!' Campaign

In honor of Black History Month, the Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN) has turned its focus towards self-actualization by allowing all Virgin Islanders to understand the individual, economical and territory- wide opportunities available through the nation's only fully interconnected, 100 percent fiber optic network found in the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to a press release issued Monday by viNGN.

"We want everyone to understand and seriously imagine the success that every Virgin Islander can achieve by taking advantage of all the resources viNGN is providing through 33 public computer centers (PCCs), free online training on any Internet-ready computer or device, and so much more," said Dr. Tonjia Coverdale.

The first component was a callout for volunteers through the campaign "Inspire," which was an effort to help bring the community together through helping bridge the digital divide. The following component, "Imagine," is designed to educate resident on how viNGN's fiber network can create a different life for everyone.

Every V.I. citizen is a part of this new and exciting chapter in the territory's history. "Just think about it -- children can now achieve their highest dreams and potential; families will be able to communicate across the miles; seniors can re-connect with childhood friends and family near and far and manage their personal and financial affairs; those needing a fresh start can re-invent themselves, find careers and start new businesses. Technology can and will breathe new life into the V.I., and all people have to do is take the first step and just imagine!" according to Coverdale.

For decades, as the rest of the nation leapt forward technologically, the U.S. Virgin Islands, along with the other U.S. territories, was so far behind that the islands were not even on the radar. Now that the viNGN network is complete, the U.S.V.I. has been placed on the Nationwide Broadband Map, which means that interested industries and investors can see that it is ready for the technological revolution.

The PCCs are being utilized by community, church and government organizations with room to grow. Currently, viNGN is partnering with the V.I. Department of Labor to provide support for individuals who need to increase computer skills in order to take the GED. Its Absolute Beginner Computer Lab is available online and for download to be used by anyone either at home or in a PCC.

Its collaboration with the University of the Virgin Islands and the V.I. Department of Education has brought about the U.S. Virgin Islands STEAM Academy (Science-Technology-Engineering, Arts- Mathematics) K-16 initiative providing children in the public school system with a digital literacy track that leads to professional certification and college credit.

Visit viNGN.com and click on Digital Literacy to get started, or contact viNGN at 715-8581 for more information.

Copyright © V.I. Source Publications, Inc.

Source URL: <http://stcroixsource.com/content/news/local-government/2016/02/01/vingn-launches-2nd-component-better-you-campaign>