

## Testimonial

Good morning, All,

I thank Senator Marese James and her staff for inviting me today to speak about our Registered Apprenticeship Program and its place in Workforce Development.

I grew up here in St. Croix and graduated from St. Joseph's High School. I went on to college where I played football and majored in Business Administration with a Minor in Entrepreneurship, at Northeastern University, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Over the last 21 years, my career path has been as a Certified Major League Baseball Player agent, representing Major League Baseball players and their families. Our sports agency, 340 Sports Management, develops and signs professional baseball players in Latin America, specifically the Dominican Republic, where our baseball academy is located, is a registered company in the Virgin Islands.

My second career path, as a Construction QA/QC Manager, in the Greater Boston area, forged the path to becoming a FEMA Badged Contractor, with the Department of Homeland Security. My background and training in Disaster Recovery Inspections and Public Assistance, lead my deployment back to the Virgin Islands in 2018-2019, to work in the Disaster Recovery efforts.

After my release from my duties in the Virgin Islands in 2019, I flew back to Boston and immediately began to assemble a team of subject matter experts, with backgrounds in Disaster Recovery efforts and Community Development, and the idea to relocate back to St. Croix, became a reality. And 340 Integrated Project Team was formed.

340-IPT, as we are commonly referred to, have a background in all things, construction, and felt like we could make a direct contribution to the Territory's Workforce Development efforts, by rolling out a much-needed Construction On-Job-Training (OJT) program. We approach DOL about the

possibility of establishing a Registered Apprenticeship Program, in the Virgin Islands, that will allow us to do just that and has recently been granted the program.

The program is two (2) years revolving, or 4000 work hours, and is available to youths 16-25, Veterans, Dislocated workers, and Individuals looking for a career change. Cohorts entering the program will be placed into the Related Training Instruction portion of the program, where they will acquire an NCCER Certificate, which is nationally recognized.

Our Program also provides a place for small local contractors, looking to enhance their business and acquire certifications and licenses that will allow their businesses to grow. Without adequate contractors to hire and teach, we cannot have adequate workers in the construction field. The contractors in our program will work with the Cohorts in the program at their pace and allow them to progress. This is key to the program's success.

We are inviting the Workforce Development Community to work with us, in our objectives to develop local construction work and to train and hire our local construction workers.