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## St. Croix to Witness Competition for Miss UVI Title by Two Contenders on April 6

**Center Stage on St. Croix: Cultural preservation meets academic achievement in what promises to be a spectacular display of elegance and intelligence**

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**I2r: LaMonee Morris and MiLisa Mercado. By. UVI**

The University of the Virgin Islands is gearing up for its prestigious Miss UVI Ambassadorial Competition, marking its 44th year. Organized by the Queen's Committee of UVI's Student Government Association, the event is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, at 6 p.m. in the Cafetorium located on the Albert A. Sheen Campus in St. Croix.

This year's competition will see two dynamic students competing for the coveted title of Miss UVI 2024.

LaMonee Morris, a 21-year-old junior at UVI, is one of the contestants vying for the crown. Majoring in psychology with a minor in dance, Morris is not only recognized for her academic pursuits but also for her deep-rooted involvement in cultural preservation. As a Mocko Jumbie and the captain of UVI's Twirlettes, she aims to highlight Virgin Islands culture through her platform on HBCU Pride.

Joining Morris in the competition is MiLisa Mercado, a 20-year-old nursing sophomore. Mercado shares her passion for promoting water accessibility and sustainability, emphasizing the importance of education in these areas. Both contestants, hailing from the Sheen Campus, embody the characteristics of poise, elegance, and intellect, qualities that the Miss UVI title prides itself on.

Jana Austrie, UVI's director of Student Life and Activities, expressed her enthusiasm for this year's theme, 'I Am HBCU Excellence', celebrating the achievements and heritage of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Austrie invites the public to witness the talents and ambassadorial potential of the contestants at the upcoming event.

The Miss UVI title holds significant importance, as the winner becomes a goodwill ambassador for the university, playing a crucial role in recruitment and representing UVI both locally and internationally. Contestants will be assessed on various criteria including intellect, language usage, and overall deportment.

The competition promises not only to crown the next Miss UVI but also to showcase the talents and intellect of its participants. The winner will receive a full academic year of UVI tuition, including room and board, among other prizes. Additional awards will recognize the Most Intellectual Speaker, Best Ambassadorial Presentation, Best Performing Talent, and Best Evening Wear.

Tickets for the event are available for purchase, priced at \$15 for UVI students with valid identification and \$20 for the general community. Interested attendees can buy tickets at the Student Center and Bookstore on the Albert A. Sheen Campus, St. Croix.