

logo not found or type unknown

Kyza Callwood's Nomination to UVI's RT Park Receives Overwhelming Support from Legislature

Callwood emphasizes strategic goals, including sustainable energy partnerships and entrepreneurial support, during his confirmation hearing before the Senate

Technology / **Published On November 20, 2024 06:42 AM /**

Nelcia Charlemagne **November 20, 2024**

Image not found or type unknown



Kyza Callwood. By. V.I. LEGISLATURE

Dr. Kyza Callwood is set to become the newest member of the UVI Research and Technology (RT) Park Board after his nomination received a ringing endorsement from members of the Senate Committee on Rules and Judiciary.

Mr. Callwood appeared before the Legislature on Tuesday to defend his suitability for the position. Currently chair of the Board of Education and a member of the University of the Virgin

Islands Board of Trustees, a member of the WTJX board, and three other entities, he presented a comprehensive overview of the experience that makes him ideal for the role.

“I have dedicated my life and career to creating pathways for progress within our community,” he told the committee. Mr. Callwood referenced his academic achievements, including a PhD in Creative Leadership for Innovation and Change. His dissertation, titled “Positive Youth Development In A Community Setting: A Study of One Youth Program in the USVI” aligns with his vision for RT Park, he testified. There, Mr. Callwood said, he wants to maintain a “nurturing environment where innovation, education and community development intersect.”

“Serving on the RT Park board would allow me to bring this vision to life,” was his appeal. The nominee outlined three focused areas which he says will “expand RT Park's influence while fostering growth and resilience for the Virgin Islands.” They include promoting green technology and sustainable energy partnerships, advanced fellowship and collaborative research programs, and targeted support for local entrepreneurs who are “essential drivers of economic growth.”

Dr. Callwood is aware that the implementation of these goals “requires the agreement and support of my fellow board members, as our success hinges on aligning with the direction collectively set.” He argued that together, the RT Park’s Board can “create an environment where technology sustainability and economic growth thrive, securing a brighter future for generations to come.”

His nomination was held in high regard by members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary. “They can't say anything wrong about this nomination,” the committee’s chair, Senator Diane Capehart declared. “You would definitely be an asset to the board.”

“Not only does he have the prerequisites of education and credentials, but also he understands board dynamics,” remarked Senator Angel Bolques, referencing Mr. Callwood’s extensive experience. Meanwhile, Senator Franklin Johnson applauded his work ethic, something that he says is “lacking here in our territory greatly.” “I know you're going to do good things,” added Senator Marise James.

If Mr. Callwood’s nomination is supported by the Legislature’s full body during Wednesday’s meeting, he will join the RT Park’s Board during what is being described as a “transformative process” under the leadership of Safiya George, UVI's new president. If confirmed, Mr. Callwood will be able to advocate for the expansion and development of the RT Park while he sits on UVI’s Board of Trustees as well.

He has promised to bring fifteen years of experience in “operations management, strategic planning, policy, development and educational advancement” to the role. Mr. Callwood’s professional certifications include qualifications in strategic organizational leadership and project management. “These credentials underscore my commitment to continuous professional development and my ability to translate theory into actionable results,” he stated.