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## **St. Croix Foundation Awards \$28,000 in Scholarships to Eight Local Students, Strengthening Pathways to Higher Education**

**St. Croix Foundation awarded \$28,000 in scholarships to eight students through the Lang-Wise STEM and Patrick & Amelia Williams Opportunity Funds, supporting academic excellence, resilience, and community impact across diverse fields of study.**

Community Center / **Published On July 18, 2025 07:23 AM /**

Staff Consortium **July 18, 2025**

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**ST. CROIX** — The St. Croix Foundation for Community Development has awarded \$28,000 in scholarships to eight talented and determined students from St. Croix as part of its 2025 scholarship cycle. The awards, announced during a virtual presentation held on July 7, 2025, were distributed through two of the Foundation's flagship programs: the Lang-Wise STEM Scholarship Fund and the Patrick and Amelia Williams Opportunity Fund.

This year's recipients—rising first-year and continuing university students—represent a broad spectrum of academic disciplines and a shared commitment to excellence, resilience, and service.

In its third year, the Lang-Wise STEM Scholarship Fund awarded a total of \$10,000 to five students pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$3,000, aimed at covering unexpected expenses during the critical first year of college.

The 2025 Lang-Wise STEM awardees include:

Curtis Charlery, Jr., George Washington University – Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

- Vivia Webster, Tulane University – Biochemistry
- Nia Francis, Tennessee State University – Biology
- Nakai Theodore, University of the Virgin Islands – Nursing
- Nathan Langley, New York University – Mechanical Engineering

The Lang-Wise Fund was established by Crucian aerospace engineer Raydiance Wise. It not only provides financial assistance but also requires applicants to articulate how they plan to give back to the Virgin Islands and the global community. Since its inception in 2023, the fund has awarded \$41,900 to 15 students and supported youth STEM initiatives, including the St. Croix Rocketry Association.