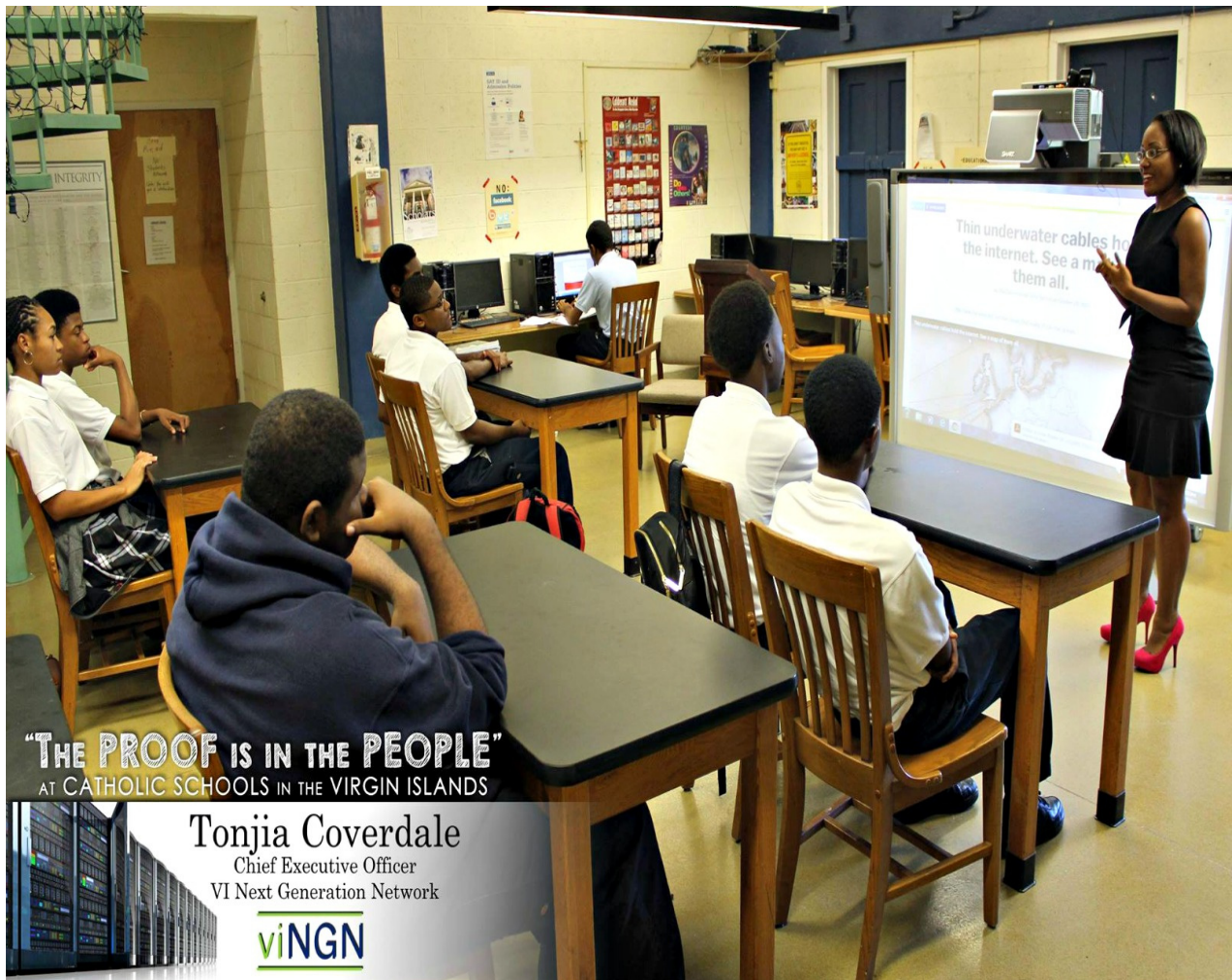


The Virgin Islands Consortium

Quick Note: Dr. Coverdale Teaches IT Academy Students What It Takes To Build A Silicon Valley

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ST. CROIX -- Last week, viNGN President and CEO Dr. Tonjia S. Coverdale was an honored guest of the St. Joseph Catholic High School IT Academy, and presented on "What it takes to make a Silicon Valley", a press release viNGN issued on Thursday has made known.

"This IT Academy will help usher in our next generation of Network Defenders, IT specialists, and creators. The St. Joseph IT Academy offers students the opportunity to earn recognized IT certifications and the option to pursue higher education in the field. Our home-grown talent WILL have the skills necessary to support the Technological Revolution," said Dr. Coverdale.

"We know that with the completion of viNGN, the nation's first 100% interconnected, all fiber-optic network, that the United States Virgin Islands are poised to become the Silicon Valley of the Caribbean," Dr. Coverdale said. "St. Croix is the only U.S. possession to be proximate to a major trans-Atlantic fiber optic hub, which can propel St. Croix to the front of the telecommunications market. And, our proximity to the emerging markets of the Caribbean and Latin/South America further positions St. Croix to becoming the technology corridor of the Caribbean," the viNGN CEO added.

Participants in the official Cisco Systems IT Academy will earn credits that may be transferred to UVI; and top performers are later eligible for skilled positions within viNGN. Cisco's IT skills and career building program is offered worldwide, with more than 5.5 million individuals benefiting since 1997.

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