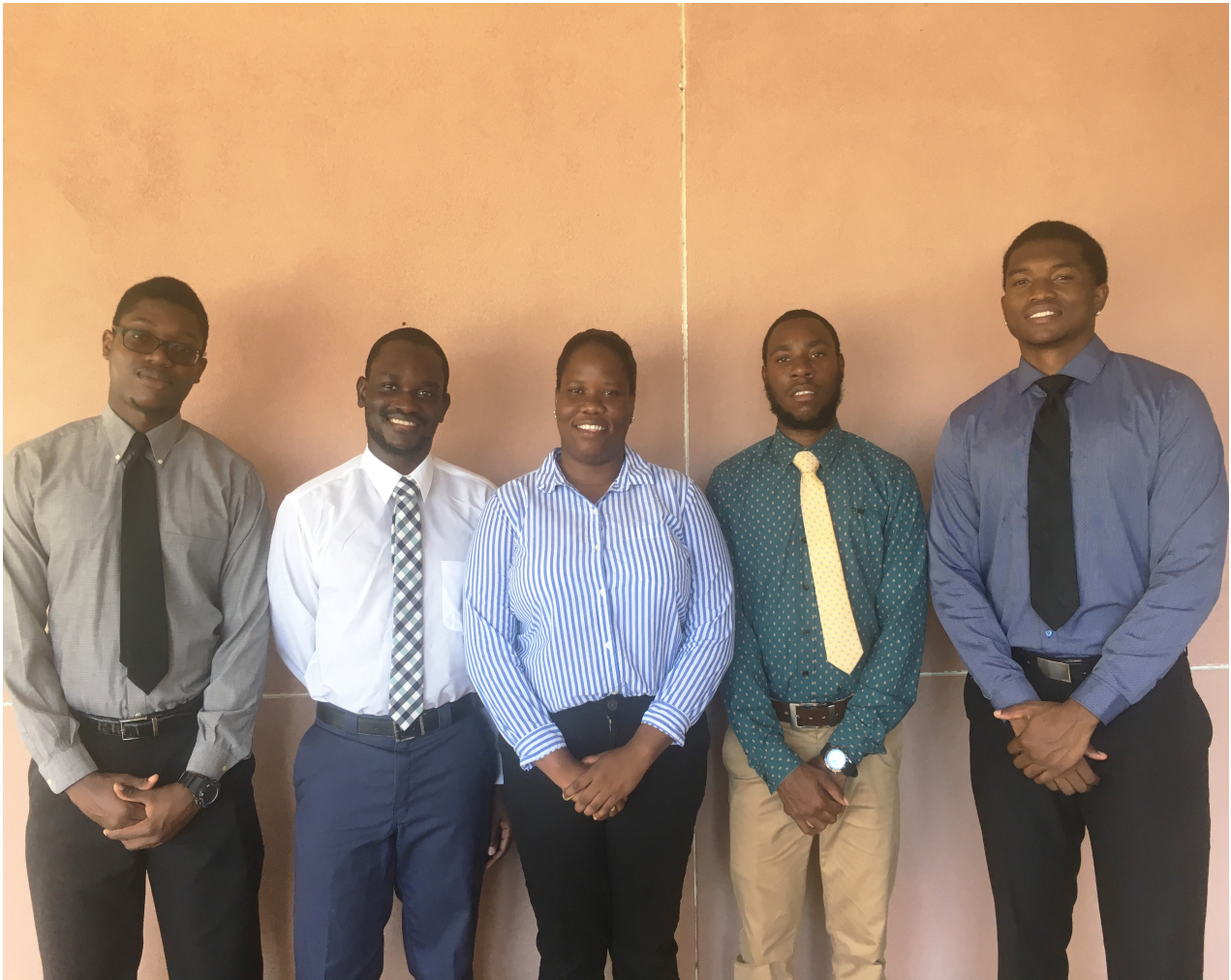


The Virgin Islands Consortium

UVI Students Capture First Place In National HP Competition

Technology / **Published On November 16, 2018 08:43 PM /**

Staff **November 16, 2018**



Five University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) students won the 2nd Annual HP HBCU Business Challenge competition on Nov. 12, UVI announced today. The national competition was hosted and sponsored by Hewlett Packard (HP), a multinational enterprise information technology company. The competition is designed to inspire future talent, foster emerging careers in technology and increase student business acumen.

The students representing UVI were Gerald Bellot, Jamilla Connor, Joash Liburd, Joevarny Herbert and Orian Stapleton. Each student will be gifted a HP laptop and printer. If the students choose to apply for one or more open internship positions at HP, they would have the opportunity to present an interview at the HP Boise and Palo Alto

locations in California during the week of January 13th. While in California, they will have dinner with the President of HP.

“These students deserve all the credit for what they have accomplished. Their entrepreneurial spirit, hard work, and amazing tenacity blew the HP executive team out of their seats,” said Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Glenn Metts. “As a group they represent the quality of our students and the importance of UVI’s Entrepreneurship Initiatives which provide them with a stage to exercise their talent.”

The 2018-2019 program goal was to reach a greater number of students and fostering a potential stronger recruitment pipeline for the company. The program expansion comes on the heels of a successful 2017-2018 year. More than 70 students across 22 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) worked in teams to develop business plans tackling real-world challenges that are core to HP’s business, including Personal Computer (PC) Services Innovation and Office Print Relevance. In addition, students visited key HP business sites and met with executives.

Following the 2017 challenge, HP hired four students as full-time interns proving the efficacy of the program to support HP’s goals to be an employer of choice among diverse talent and giving fuel to scale the program. The 2017-2018 winners who represented Xavier University (Louisiana) and Delaware State University worked on real-time business issues and presented comprehensive business proposals to HP’s print and personal systems business leadership.

Through the Reinvent Mindsets campaign and programs such as the HBCU Business Challenge, HP strives to cultivate a future talent pool and demonstrate the importance of fostering the next generation of all talent.

Feature Image: Orian Stapleton, Joash Liburd, Jamilla Connor, Joevarny Herbert and Gerald Bellot (Credit: UVI)