

The Virgin Islands Consortium

viNGN introduces St. Croix Christian Academy Students To Fiber Optic Tech

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Fiber optic technicians of the Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN) introduced 4th and 5th graders of the St. Croix Christian Academy to fiber optic technology on Friday, as part of the school's ongoing efforts to expose students to the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), viNGN said in a release.

As an active member of the PTA, viNGN Finance Team member Keenisha Brown felt that telecommunications would be a perfect fit, and she approached school staff with the idea. "I'm so grateful for the assistance of the student's instructor Petra Wilson and school Principal Rosemond Lawrence-Creighton for making it happen," she said.

Field Technicians Elisha Williams and Desmond Phillip, Jr., ably guided the curious youngsters through an in-depth look at how networks enable communication, fiber optic splicing, and how Internet services are delivered from viNGN's "middle mile" to local Internet Service Providers, and finally, from the ISP to the residential, business or government agency customer (the "last mile"), viNGN said.

Ms. Brown was delighted with the enthusiastic response to the visit. "Mrs. Wilson called afterwards to say that the students really enjoyed it and she couldn't thank us enough," she said. "[She said] that this was a unique and new experience for these children, the future of our community. We cannot know which of the students will chose fiber optics as a career, but I just know we touched somebody today."

viNGN said it regularly provides exposure for youngsters and adults to information technology and communications through similar programs and appearances throughout the territory.

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