

The Virgin Islands Consortium

UVI Students Awarded Record Number of National Title III Scholarships

Education / **Published On October 09, 2019 06:08 PM /**

Staff **October 09, 2019**



Four University of the Virgin Islands students were awarded National Association of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Title III Administrators, Inc. scholarships in September, UVI made known Wednesday. "This is the largest number of students that have won in a single competition in the history of UVI's participation in the competition, and this speaks well of the quality of the students at the institution," said UVI Title III Coordinator Dayle Barry.

Jovansia Matthew was awarded the \$1,000 regional scholarship, while Kelvina Salters, Renell Agard, and Lesley-Anne Samuels were awarded \$500 each.



Jovansia Matthew

The University of the Virgin Islands has been participating in this scholarship program as far back as 2013. Since 1968, the U.S. Education Department implemented a Title III, Part B for the purpose of strengthening HBCU's. Financial assistance is provided to these institutions in order to assist in establishing or strengthening their physical plants, financial management, academic resources, and endowment. Additionally, funds are allocated for the improvement of campus facilities; education or financial information designed to improve the financial literacy and economic literacy of students or the students' families, UVI said.

Matthew, who hails from the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, is currently majoring in biology while minorning in health sciences. She has dreams of becoming a pediatrician, a member of the community of St. Kitts. There is a high demand for this



Renell Agard

"I have a love for kids and science so that's what propelled me to be a pediatrician," said Matthew. "I have always believed investing time with children is beneficial; they are the future generation," expressed Matthew. During her time at UVI, Matthew has earned a

spot on the Dean's List for four consecutive semesters and has maintained a G.P.A of 3.8 and was named as Resident of the Year at the Student Engagement



Kelvina Salters

Currently, she serves as the vice president for the St. Kitts and Nevis Association student club and the secretary for the Biology Society Club. Furthermore, she has participated in University Bound and served as a tutor to students needing help with science and math.

"I felt overjoyed and delighted," said Matthew, when she learned she had received the scholarship." I began giving God thanks for this amazing blessing." She also thanked her academic advisor and her Pastor Lincoln Connor, who wrote letters of recommendation on her behalf.

Agard, also a native of St. Kitts, is currently pursuing a bachelor of business administration with a concentration in management. "I appreciate what the organization



HBCUs and their students," said Agard. "It is important scholarship."

Lesley-anne Samuels

As an international student, she does not qualify for many scholarships. When she heard she was awarded the HBCU Title III Administrator's scholarship, she said, "I felt elated and grateful as the timing was impeccable." Agard also thanked the persons that wrote her letters of recommendation as well as Dayle Barry for his assistance.

Agard is involved in several extracurricular activities such as the Golden Key International Honor Society and the Psychology Club. Also, she has participated in The Washington Center Academic Internship Program in Washington, D.C. She plans to further her education by attending graduate school and eventually pursuing a career in Human Resources.

UVI and the National Association of HBCU's Title III Administrators, Inc. continues to work to empower and strengthen HBCU's across the United States and territories for the betterment of its students.