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V.I. Dept. of Labor Announces VI State Apprenticeship Council, a Regulatory Board Aimed at Fostering Apprenticeship in the USVI

Business / **Published On February 15, 2021 06:59 AM /**

Staff Consortium **February 15, 2021**

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The V.I. Department of Labor has announced the establishment of the VI State Apprenticeship Council(VISAC), a regulatory board comprised of 9 members appointed by the commissioner of Labor.

According to a D.O.L. release, VISAC membership includes two representatives from the Virgin Islands Department of Labor, one of whom must be the department's Legal counsel; two representatives from the Virgin Islands Board of Career and Technical Education; two representatives from the private sector who represent the interest of workers; two representatives from the private sector who represent the interests of employers; and one representative who is familiar with apprenticeable occupations.

The current VISAC members are as follows:

Virgin Islands Department of Labor Representatives, one of whom must be the Department's legal counsel:

- Ms. Shenika Sebastien, Director of Youth and Apprenticeship
- Atty. Nesha Christian-Hendrickson, Assistant Commissioner/Legal Counsel

Virgin Islands Board of Career and Technical Education Representatives:

- Dr. Michael Francois - Board Member - STX
- Mr. Ronnie Jones - Board Member - STJ

Private Sector – Interests of Workers Representatives:

- Mr. Eugene Irish - President of the Seafarers Union
- Ms. Shirley Sadler - Office of the Inspector General/Advocate of Second Chance Programs

Private Sector – Interests of Employers Representatives:

- Mr. Richard Doumeng – Owner of Bolongo Bay
- Ms. Carla Scott - HR Director of AECOM

Familiar with Apprenticeable Occupations Representative:

- Dr. Suzanne Darrow-Magras - Director UVICELL and Chairperson

What are the functions of the VISAC?

The VI Apprenticeship Council performs the following functions:

- Assists in the development of procedures and policies for the promotion of apprenticeship in the Virgin Islands.
- Provides advice and guidance to the Department of Labor in the establishment of standards of apprenticeship in trades and apprenticeable occupations suitable to the economy and conditions in the Islands.
- Approves apprenticeship standards that meet minimum basic standards of regulations.
- Assists in educating the community to apprenticeship.
- Ensures compliance of Affirmative Action Plans associated with apprenticeship standards.
- Acts as second level of appeal for complaints of apprentices.

Future meeting dates for the V.I. State Apprenticeship Council are as following:

- February 16, 2-3:30PM
- May 18, 2-3:30PM
- August 17, 2-3:30PM
- November 16, 2-3:30PM

Find out more about the V.I. State Apprenticeship Council by visiting the department online at www.vidol.gov.

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