

The Virgin Islands Consortium

UVI's 59th Commencement Ceremonies to Feature Renowned Keynote Speaker Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

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Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. By. THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The University of the Virgin Islands is set to welcome Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, an esteemed author, professor, and political and cultural commentator, as the keynote speaker for its 59th Commencement Ceremonies on May 11 and 12, taking place in St. Croix and St. Thomas, respectively.

Dr. Dyson currently serves as the Centennial Chair at Vanderbilt University and has received numerous awards and distinctions throughout his career.

UVI President Dr. David Hall said the University is honored to have Dr. Dyson as the keynote speaker and eagerly awaits his powerful message. "The University is incredibly honored that Dr. Dyson will deliver what is sure to be an unforgettable keynote address to our graduating students, faculty, staff and distinguished guests. His exceptional talent, intellectual rigor, and passionate advocacy for social justice have made him one of the most influential and respected public intellectuals of our time, and we eagerly await his presence and powerful message," he said.

In addition to Dr. Dyson's address, the university will confer honorary degrees upon Clema S. Williams-Lewis and Edward Thomas, Sr., two distinguished individuals who have made significant contributions to their fields and the Virgin Islands community.



Clema S. Williams-Lewis

Clema S. Williams-Lewis will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of her commitment to promoting justice and equality in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Throughout her 41-year career, Williams-Lewis has worked extensively as a social worker, advocating for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.



Edward Elroy Thomas, Sr.

Edward Elroy Thomas, Sr. will be awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree for his exemplary public service, outstanding business leadership, and contributions to economic development in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Thomas has held prominent positions in the St. Thomas community, including Director of the Internal Revenue Bureau (IRB) and President, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Board Chairman of The West Indian Company, Limited (WICO).

The commencement ceremonies will take place at 1 p.m. on both May 11 and 12, on the grounds of the Albert A. Sheen Campus in St. Croix and in the Elridge W. Blake Sports and Fitness Center on the Orville E. Kean Campus in St. Thomas.

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