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IEKHS Class of 2019, Inc. Awards \$1,000 Scholarship to Aspiring Neuroscientist Danesha Derima

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Danesha Derima, center left, is presented with a \$1,000 scholarship check by the IEKHS Class of 2019, Inc. By. THE IEKHS CLASS OF 2019, INC.

ST. THOMAS — In a commendable act of alumni support, the IEKHS Class of 2019, Inc. has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Danesha Derima, a notable graduate from the IEKHS Class of 2020. Presently, Derima is pursuing her major in psychology at the University of the Virgin Islands, with a budding passion for neuroscience research.

Derima's academic journey is guided by her aspiration to become a leading neuroscientist, with a specific emphasis on developing drug treatments for neurodegenerative conditions such as dementia, according to a release issued by the Class of 2019. This scholarship is especially

significant as it helps offset financial challenges students often face in the vital third and fourth years of college.

"I'm profoundly thankful to the Class of 2019 for this prestigious scholarship. It greatly aids in managing my college expenses," expressed Derima. She has an ambitious vision of becoming a community leader, primarily focusing on mentoring young Virgin Islander women passionate about STEM. "This scholarship amplifies my determination to bring about positive change and guide the future women in the scientific realm," she added.

Ivanna Eudora Kean High School's alumni have been closely monitoring the accomplishments of their recent graduates, according to the release. Derima's exemplary academic commitment since her high school days naturally made her an outstanding contender for the award.

President Ki'Andre Thomas of the IEKHS Class of 2019, Inc. shared, "We are excited to present this scholarship to Danesha, a truly deserving student. Our initiative is not just about aiding our fellow alumni but also to motivate other batches to initiate such noble endeavors early in their journey."

The scholarship was funded by the Dynamite Rays Apparel Scholarship Fund, primarily through sales of hats showcasing the school mascot, Ronnie the Ray. This initiative speaks volumes about the alumni group's dedication to academic merit and supporting the next generation.

Moreover, the IEKHS Class of 2019, Inc. is gearing up to celebrate their 5-year reunion from August 2023 to May 2024. This milestone will also see the organization continuously award scholarships, organize post-high school workshops, and create more opportunities for deserving students. "We invite potential partners and sponsors to join us in this endeavor. Together, we can profoundly impact the educational journey of our students," remarked Thomas.