

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

06/02/2023 – REASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

BILL NO. 35-0096

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

May 31, 2023

An Act appropriating \$500,000 to establish a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration degree program at the St. Croix and St. Thomas campuses of the University of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senator Diane T. Capehart

WHEREAS, the Doctor of Philosophy program is an academic or professional degree program that, in most countries, qualifies the degree holder to teach their chosen subject at the university level or to work in a specialized position in their chosen field; and

WHEREAS, the University of the Virgin Islands will offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration program at its St. Croix and St. Thomas campuses; and

WHEREAS, as the highest degree a student can achieve in the field, the Doctor of Philosophy qualifies students primarily for research and teaching positions, both of which are in shortage in the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS. students in Ph.D. programs learn to identify gaps in existing research, contextually interpret relevant literature for posing new hypotheses, and produce new original research; and

WHEREAS, the University of the Virgin Islands School of Business strives to be the premier learner-centered English-speaking institution in the Eastern Caribbean, providing high-quality graduate and undergraduate business education responsive to the needs of students, employers, the community, and the region. The School of Business is also known for attracting students from the mainland for enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the graduate programs at the University of the Virgin Islands were developed to meet specific needs in the Territory and beyond and have proven successful in the Territory and beyond; and

WHEREAS, each of the University's programs has its own mission, and the overall aim of all the areas of graduate study is to provide a high-quality education for students to meet their professional and technical training needs as well as advance the community; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the restrictions on the use of funds in 32 V.I.C. § 246 (a)(11) and 33 V.I.C. § 3093 (c), respectively, the sum of \$250,000 from the total revenues accruing to the V.I. Lottery under 32 V.I.C. § 246(a)(11) and the sum of \$250,000 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund are appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, to the University of the Virgin Islands to fund a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Business Administration program at the St. Croix and St. Thomas campuses, as provided in section 2.

SECTION 2. (a) The funds appropriated in section 1 must be expended for the specific purposes and in the amounts established in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section as follows:

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|-----|---|------------------|
| (1) | Recruitment of faculty | \$230,000 |
| (2) | Contracting an expert for faculty & program development | \$ 42,000 |

1 (3) Application for approval to offer doctoral program **\$ 5,000**

2 (4) Upgrade of library resources **\$ 25,000**

3 (b) Regardless of the amount, all expenditures from the funds must be authorized by at
4 least two University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees members.

5 **SECTION 3. (a)** The funds appropriated in section 1 remain available until expended
6 solely to implement the Ph.D. in Business Administration Program at the St. Croix and the St.
7 Thomas campuses.

8 **BILL SUMMARY**

9 This bill appropriates \$500,000 to the University of the Virgin Islands to fund a Doctor of
10 Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Business Administration program at the St. Croix and St. Thomas
11 campuses.

12 **BR23-0555/May 25,2023/YLT**