

***Policy Challenges Conference: Bridging Research and Practice:  
Dropout Prevention: Keeping Our Students in School***

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

8:00 AM–4:30 PM EST

Administrative and Conference Center at the University of the Virgin Islands—St. Thomas Campus

## **Agenda**

- 8:00 a.m.                      **Registration**
- 8:30 a.m.                      **Welcome Remarks**
- **Honorable La Verne Terry, Ed.D**, Commissioner, V.I. Department of Education; REL-NEI Governing Board
  - **Ms. Jill Weber**, Director, REI-NEI
  - **Dr. David Hall**, President, University of the Virgin Islands
- 8:45 a.m.                      **IES Dropout Prevention Practice Guide**
- **Moderator: Ms. Jan Phlegar**, Director of State Relations, REL-NEI
- Keynote Presentation**
- **Dr. Russell Rumberger**, Professor of Education, University of California at Santa Barbara  
*Overview of the Practice Guide series, presentation of recommendations, Q&A*
- 10:15 a.m.                      **Panel A: Practitioners' Perspective**
- **Moderator: Ms. Jeanette Smith-Barry**, Superintendent, St. Thomas–St. John District
- Panelists:**
- **Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.**, Commissioner, V.I. Department of Labor
  - **Mr. Victor Somme III**, Director, Alternative Education Programs, St. Croix District
  - **Ms. Cira Burke**, Director of Intervention Services, St. Thomas–St. John District
- 11:00 a.m.                      **Break**

- 11:15 a.m.**                    **Panel B: Policymakers' Perspective**
- **Moderator: Ms. Cheryl Williams, REL-NEI**
- Panelists:**
- **Honorable La Verne Terry, Ed.D.**, Commissioner, V.I. Department of Education; REL-NEI Governing Board
  - **Mrs. Winona Hendricks**, Chairperson, V.I. Board of Education
  - **Honorable Wayne James**, Senator and Chairperson, V.I. Senate Committee on Education, Youth and Culture
- 12:15 p.m.**                    **Luncheon and Table Conversations**  
*Reflections on the Recommendations*
- 1:45 p.m.**                    **Introducing REL-NEI Resources**
- **Ms. Claire Morgan, Ms. Sandra Espada-Santos, Ms. Rebby Carey, REL-NEI**
- 2:15 p.m.**                    **Identifying Strategies and Policies Needed to Reduce and Prevent Dropout Among USVI Students**
- **Dr. Velma Cobb, Ms. Marla Perez**; Equity Assistance Center Region II
  - **Ms. Sandra Espada-Santos**, V.I. Liaison, REL-NEI
  - **Dr. Roderick Moorehead**, Special Assistant to Education Commissioner, V.I. Department of Education
- Reflection on panel and keynote presentations*  
*Discussion of recommendations and work on the Planning and Implementation Template*  
*Synthesizing the proposed Next Steps*
- 4:15 p.m.**                    **Closing and Evaluation**
- **Honorable La Verne Terry, Ed.D.**, Commissioner, V.I. Department of Education; REL-NEI Governing Board