



## ANNOUNCING THE VIRGIN ISLANDS EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2014

The Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (VI-EPSCoR) will be hosting its Annual Conference this year on Monday May 12, 2014, on the UVI St. Thomas campus in the Administration and Conference Center's ground floor conference room. This year's Annual Conference's theme is "Strengthening Our Research, Education and Outreach Collaborations in the Region". The tone of the day will be the sharing of information about research, education and outreach goals and initiatives by local entities and representatives from the British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, in an effort to identify synergies and opportunities for collaborations to our mutual benefit.

There will be four presentation themes: i) Ridge to Reef Research in the region; ii) Climate Change and Anthropogenic Research; iii) Education and; iv) Outreach. Presenters will include UVI researchers, representatives from the British Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, and Puerto Rico. The keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Lee Todd, President Emeritus of the University of Kentucky on 'the Role of Science and Technology in Economic Development'. There will also be a special lunchtime presentation by National Science Foundation –EPSCoR's Program Director Dr. Sean Kennan on partnership and collaborative funding opportunities via NSF.

It is hoped that through the day's deliberations, participants will learn of existing and proposed research, outreach and education activities, offer their suggestions to these initiatives, and in several instances identify ways in which they or their affiliates may be able to collaborate with others to strengthen and ensure greater effectiveness and successes in the Virgin Islands and the region.

VI-EPSCoR, is funded by the National Science Foundation and is committed to fostering partnerships in research, academia, and the public and private sectors in the Virgin Islands, to build a more science-capable and research-competitive Territory.

The conference commences with registration at 8:00 a.m. and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. Participation is free and open to the public.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Nick Drayton at: [ndrayton@uvi.edu](mailto:ndrayton@uvi.edu) or call 340-692-4003.