

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND PRESENTERS:

Ms. Susan Silverman began her career as a professional educator in 1970. Before retiring in 2004 from the Comsewogue School District, Port Jefferson Station, NY, she worked as an elementary classroom teacher and as an Instructional Technology Integration Specialist. She is currently an adjunct professor at New York Institute of Technology, a member of the Scholastic Professional Development Team and a member of CAST's 2011 UDL Faculty Cadre. When she's not giving workshops she spends her time enjoying life in St. John, US Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Michelle LaCoss has worked part-time for the past 15 years with Inter-Island Parent Coalition for Change as an Information Specialist for one of their agencies – VI FIND. She has been a hard working advocate for parents of children with disabilities and in 2007 co-founded the Conflict Resolution Org. for Peace, a non-profit focused on providing conflict resolution and bully prevention skills to elementary schools on St. Croix. She is the proud parent of five children and three grandchildren. Her last child, Jordan, has Down Syndrome and is her motivation and inspiration.

Mrs. Candace Petty-Robinson was born and raised on St. Thomas, VI and is a product of the public school system. Since 2000 she has worked as a Social Worker at the Department of Human Services in the Division of Children & Family Services- Foster Care/Adoption Unit. She and her husband considered relocating to the mainland when their son, Nathan, was diagnosed with a serious seizure disorder and severe developmental delays in 2002 when he was five months old. They decided to stay here and advocate for children and other individuals with special needs. This is why she helped to start HUGS VI and remains committed to assisting other families to be informed and empowered to advocate for their children or adult dependents.

Dr. Sandra Ross is an assistant director and manages the Territory's assistive technology loan program for persons with disabilities for the Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD) at the University of the Virgin Islands. She also works as a consultant in international development. In her free time, Sandy enjoys African cooking and travel, playing bid whist, collecting African fetish frogs, gardening, and exhibiting her art work (photography, found object collages and installations). However, doting on her grandchildren, Erica Brianne and Jackson Casey, gives her the most joy.

VIUCEDD OFFICES

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The Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (VIUCEDD)

&

Inter Island Parent Coalition for Change, Inc.
Virgin Islands Family Network on Disabilities (VI FIND)
Parent Uniting Schools & Homes (VIPUSH)

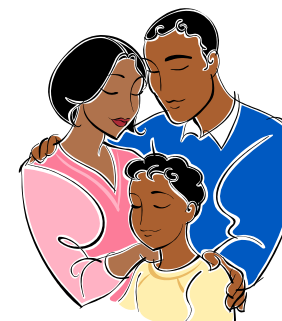


Presents



8TH ANNUAL PARENT EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

SUPPORTING ALL CHILDREN IN SUCCESSFUL
CLASSROOMS



St. Thomas, USVI

Friday, February 25, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Venue: UVI Administration &
Conference Center

St. Croix, USVI

Monday, February 28, 2011
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Venue: UVI North West Wing
Great Hall

PARENT EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE
AGENDA

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

ST. THOMAS – ADMINISTRATION AND CONFERENCE CENTER (ACC)

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Registration/Breakfast**
- 9:15 – 9:30** **Welcome Remarks**
- Dr. Yegin Habtes, Senior Executive Director, VIUCEDD
- Mrs. Belinda West O'Neal, Executive Director, Inter-Island Parent Coalition for Change
- 9:15 – 10:15** **Keynote Address**
- Fostering Expert Learners Through Universal Design for Learning – Susan Silverman, Presenter
- 10:15 – 10:30** **Break – Assemble for Session**
- 10:30-12:00** **Breakout Sessions I**
1. The Do's & Don'ts of Advocacy - Candace Petty-Robinson
 2. IEP for Parents - Michelle LaCoss
 3. Part I. Tools That Support Diverse Learners - Susan Silverman
Part II. Assistive Technology: A Basic Guide for Parents/Guardians of Children with Disabilities - Dr. Sandra Ross
- 12:00-1:30** **Lunch**
- 1:30-3:00** **Breakout Sessions II**
1. The Do's & Don'ts of Advocacy - Candace Petty-Robinson
 2. IEP for Parents - Michelle LaCoss
 3. Part I. Tools That Support Diverse Learners - Susan Silverman
Part II. Assistive Technology: A Basic Guide for Parents/Guardians of Children with Disabilities - Dr. Sandra Ross
- 3:00-3:15** **Closing Remarks and Door Prizes**
(Door Prizes for those who are present)

PARENT EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE
AGENDA

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

ST. CROIX - UVI GREAT HALL

- 8:30 – 9:00** **Registration/Breakfast**
- 9:00 – 9:15** **Welcome Remarks**
- Dr. Yegin Habtes, Senior Executive Director, VIUCEDD
- Mrs. Belinda West O'Neal, Executive Director, Inter-Island Parent Coalition for Change
- 9:15 – 10:15** **Keynote Address**
- Fostering Expert Learners Through Universal Design for Learning – Susan Silverman, Presenter
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