UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

“In memory of our beloved graduate and student – David Payne”

EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTER (ECC)
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPIRITUALITY AND PROFESSIONALISM (CSAP)
PROCESS

- **Town Hall Meeting Held on October 19, 2012 on Both Campuses and on St. John**

- **Over 40 Recommendations Were Provided**

- **Most Recommendations Fell in One of Four Broad Categories: Advocacy, Outreach, Policy, and Research**

- **A Task Force was Convened to Review Recommendations and Propose “Next Steps”**

- **The Task Force Met in November and December and Developed Recommendations**
TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Officer David Cannonier
- Judge James Carroll III
- Ms. Dara Cooper
- Dr. Haldane Davies
- Dr. Asha DeGannes
- Dr. David Hall
- Ms. Irene Hatchett-Sealey
- Mr. Stevie Henry
- Dr. Frank Mills
- Ms. Shari Wiltshire
PURPOSE OF THE AVPI

- To Utilize the Resources, Insights and Expertise of the University to Combat the Existence and Increase of Violence in the Virgin Islands

- To Work Collaboratively with Government Agencies, Private Entities, and Community Organizations to Curtail Violence

- To Promote Peace, Alternative Dispute Resolution Strategies and Perspectives Throughout the Virgin Islands
FOCUS AREAS

- Research
- Policy
- Outreach
- Advocacy
RESEARCH

- Conduct Research to Better Understand Gangs and the Gang Culture

- Research the Connection Between Drug and Alcohol Use and Acts of Violence

- Conduct Research on Family Violence and the Relationship Between Dysfunctional Family Patterns and the Prevalence of Violence

- Conduct Research on the Role of Spiritual and Moral Values on Violence Prevention (Virtues Project)
PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF POLICIES THAT WILL REQUIRE THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA ON VIOLENCE, CRIME, EDUCATION, AND RELATED VARIABLES FOR JUVENILES AND YOUNG ADULTS

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT CREATE STRONGER CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE COURT SYSTEM AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

IDENTIFY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT COUNSELING, ANGER MANAGEMENT TRAINING, DRUG REHABILITATION AND THE REINSTATEMENT OF TRUANCY POLICIES

DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO REDUCE THE DROP OUT RATE
OUTREACH

- **Create a Collaborative of All Agencies, Community Organizations and Leaders Who Are Concerned About Addressing Violence in the Community and Enhance the Capacity of Those Agencies and Organizations**

- **Work to Better Prepare Students for College (Expansion of Junior University, Summer Bridge, University Bound, Etc.)**

- **Have Others on the Task Force From the Anti-Gang Community**

- **Focus Group with Individuals Who Have Been the Victims of Violence or Engaged in Gang Activity**

- **Develop and Implement Parenting Programs and Education of Families**
ADVOCACY

- Help develop and implement a marathon run to “Take Back the Community”
- Institutionalize Red Ribbon Week on both campuses
- Provide support to existing student leadership groups and initiatives that focus on positive student development
- Get the message out through a campaign against violence that includes, PSAs, posters, and newspaper articles (The messages should not only be about the dangers, but also about solutions on campus and in the community)
INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

- The Anti-violence and Peace Initiative (AVPI) will be housed in the Eastern Caribbean Center (ECC)
- AVPI will be co-sponsored by ECC and the Center for the Study of Spirituality and Professionalism (CSAP)
- Funding for AVIP will be sought from the Foundation for the University of the Virgin Islands for two years at $50,000 per year
- The Part-Time Director will be responsible for working with institutional advancement to secure ongoing funding for the program
- An Advisory Board will be created to provide guidance and support