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## **Virgin Islands Department of Education Welcomes New St. Croix District Insular Superintendent**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Sharlene Belton-Gonzalez as the new Insular Superintendent for the St. Croix District. Commissioner of Education Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D., expressed her enthusiasm for Dr. Gonzalez's arrival, stating, "We are pleased to welcome Dr. Belton-Gonzalez to the St. Croix District. Her passion for education and her eagerness to be of service to the people of St. Croix is truly inspiring."

Dr. Sharlene Belton-Gonzalez brings a wealth of experience and a strong academic background to her new role. She holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish, a master's degree in Adult Education and Training, and a doctoral degree in Higher Education from Texas A&M University, Commerce.

Dr. Gonzalez began her illustrious career in education as a high school Spanish teacher. Over her 12 years in the classroom, she also taught English as a Second Language, bilingual classes at the elementary level, AVID, and English as a Foreign Language in the Dominican Republic. Her teaching experience spans every grade level, from PreK to post-secondary.

Transitioning to school administration, Dr. Gonzalez started as an Assistant Principal at a middle school in Texas's second-largest school district. She then served as a Director of Bilingual and ESL Programs before becoming a high school principal. Subsequently, she took on the role of Coordinator for English Learner Programs, supporting six campuses with instructional practices and ensuring state and federal compliance. Dr. Gonzalez is now entering her 12th year in school administration and her 24th year in the field of education.

Dr. Gonzalez is dedicated to providing each student with a well-rounded education and the necessary resources for success. As a servant leader, she is eager to serve the students, families, teachers, and staff of St. Croix.

"I am honored and excited to join the St. Croix District and to work alongside such dedicated educators and staff," said Dr. Gonzalez. "Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed."

The Virgin Islands Department of Education looks forward to the positive impact Dr. Sharlene Belton-Gonzalez will undoubtedly have on the St. Croix District and its community.

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