



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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*Image (left to right): Malena Mayea, Senior Engagement Consultant at Cigna; Brenda Aloyo, WAPA Assistant Director of Human Resources; Sabrina King Leonce, WAPA Director of Human Resources; Shania Milligan, WAPA Compensation and Benefits Analyst; Malissa Neille, CIGNA Well-Being Coordinator; and Osvaldo Guerra, Market Growth Analyst at Cigna*

## **WAPA HR Department Receives Prestigious Award for Top Healthy Workforce at Fort Lauderdale Event**

U.S. Virgin Islands – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) is proud to announce that its Human Resources department journeyed to Fort Lauderdale to receive the prestigious Gold level Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation. This recognition underscores WAPA's commitment to fostering a healthy and vital work environment for its employees.

For the second consecutive year, Cigna has recognized WAPA for its outstanding efforts in prioritizing employee health and wellness. Building upon last year's Bronze Designation, WAPA's attainment of the Gold level highlights the significant progress and dedication of the Authority in creating a supportive and healthy work environment for its workforce.

Retaining employees is essential for advancing the benefits and opportunities offered to our workforce. Additionally, creating a welcoming work environment is key to attracting local community members and individuals from abroad to consider the Authority as a desirable place to work.

The Authority consistently welcomes numerous new hires each month while also retaining employees with tenure exceeding 35 years. Initiatives such as WAPA's summer internships, engineering scholarships, and apprenticeships not only encourage young talent from the Territory to join our team but also contribute to cultivating a robust workforce and mitigating brain drain.

Sabrina King-Leonce, Director of Human Resources, along with Brenda Aloyo, Assistant Director of Human Resources, and Shania Milligan, Compensation and Benefits Analyst, represented WAPA at the event held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on April 17, 2024.

WAPA joins the ranks of top public and private employers in the South Florida and Caribbean region in achieving this esteemed designation. Under the leadership of Sabrina King-Leonce, WAPA has implemented a comprehensive range of health and wellness activities, including engaging employees in fitness challenges, conducting informative webinar sessions, and hosting wellness workshops for employees and their families.

“We place the utmost importance on our employees' health and well-being at WAPA. Being acknowledged by Cigna reinforces our dedication to nurturing a healthy and encouraging workplace,” noted Andrew Smith, CEO/Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority.

The Cigna Healthy Workforce Designation evaluates organizations based on various components of their well-being program, including leadership and culture, program foundations, policies, and accommodations. Organizations recognized with this designation set the standard of excellence for organizational health and vitality.

WAPA is honored to receive the Gold Level designation and remains committed to promoting employee health, happiness, and productivity.

*The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication's department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.*

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**About WAPA:** The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.

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