



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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WAPA Announces 2026 Alva McFarlane Scholarship Program

U.S. Virgin Islands (Nov. 3, 2025) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the 2026 Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship Program, providing a unique opportunity to support and build careers in engineering across the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As the largest monetary high school scholarship program in the territory, the Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship has long supported students pursuing degrees in engineering and related technical fields. Historically offered to graduating high school seniors and college freshmen and sophomores, the program has now, for the first time, expanded to include students seeking a master’s degree in engineering — offering even greater opportunities for advanced study and professional growth for Virgin Islanders.

The Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship Program offers opportunities in three (3) categories:

Bachelor’s Degree – up to \$80,000

- Graduating high school seniors
- College freshmen and sophomores, including UVI students enrolled or planning to enroll in the five-year engineering program

Associate’s/Technical Degree – up to \$30,000

- Graduating high school seniors planning to pursue an associate’s degree in Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering, or a related field, or
- Individuals planning to attend trade school or pursue certification in a technical field

Master’s Degree – up to \$60,000

- Students enrolled in an accredited graduate engineering program, or
- Individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree in engineering from an accredited engineering college or university
- Period of scholarship: maximum three (3) years

Scholarships in each category are offered per district.

To be considered, applicants must be U.S. citizens and Virgin Islands residents with no criminal record. Selection criteria include academic achievement, standardized test scores, community involvement, and performance in a panel interview. Eligible costs include tuition, room and board, books, fees, and supplies.

The Alva C. McFarlane Scholarship Program was created to invest in the territory's future by equipping young engineers to help enhance the Virgin Islands' energy infrastructure. Over the years, the program has empowered local students to pursue higher education and return to serve their community through the modernization of the territory's energy systems at WAPA.

Alva C. McFarlane, who was instrumental in developing the scholarship, dedicated his career to supporting the Virgin Islands' youth as Director of Apprenticeship and Training at the V.I. Department of Labor, leaving a lasting legacy of opportunity and community development.

The Authority encourages all aspiring engineers to apply today at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/viwapa/promotionaljobs>

All inquiries should be directed to careers@viwapa.vi.

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.