

The Virgin Islands
Department of Education Presents
**2022-2023 ST. THOMAS-ST. JOHN DISTRICT
TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATE**

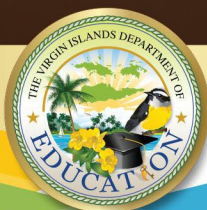


NATASHA WRIGHT

Chemistry
Ivanna Eudora Kean High School

————— **For full bio, visit www.vide.vi** —————

————— *"Transforming Today's Learners Into Tomorrow's Leaders"* —————



Natasha Wright

Biography

Ms. Natasha Wright was born in Christiansted, St. Croix, VI, but was raised most of her life on the island of St. Thomas, VI. After her graduations from Ivanna Eudora Kean High School in 1990, and Norfolk State University in 1995, Ms. Wright began teaching science in the St. Thomas/St. John School District in 1999. She currently holds a BS degree in Chemistry (NSU) and a MA in Educational Technology obtained from the University of the Virgin Islands in 2005.

Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Wright has taught various science courses at IEKHS and is currently teaching Advance Placement Chemistry, Pre-AP Chemistry and General Chemistry to students in grade levels 10th through 12th. During the summers of 2010 to 2019, Ms. Wright has also given of her teaching experience to the John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) Summer Program at its various sites. She also holds professional memberships with the American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT), National Association of Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Norfolk State University Alumni Association, National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Teaching was not Ms. Wright's intention for a profession. Upon completion of her studies at Norfolk State University, Natasha began applying to medical schools and awaiting her chances at an interview. While in St. Thomas for the summer break of 1995, Hurricane Marilyn hit the US Virgin Islands, devastated the island, and changed the course of her future. The impact to essential services such as the mail caused her to receive her interview letters after their set deadlines. During the island's recovery, she became employed in the Business Office of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and was later hired as a pharmacy technician trainee by the Department of Health at the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital Pharmacy Department. A few years later, she was approached by her mother's close friend and encouraged to apply for a teaching position in the Department of Education. Ms. Wright later accepted a teaching position at her alma mater – Ivanna Eudora Kean High School under the leadership of Mr. St. Clair Wilkinson.

Through the infancy of her teaching career, Ms. Wright was continually influenced by her interactions and personal experiences with some dedicated and ardent educators at Ivanna Eudora Kean High School. Mrs. Judy Forbes-Walwyn, Mrs. Tulip Fleming, Mrs. Tracy Johnson, Ms. Lorna Rogers, Mr. Glen Monticeaux and Mr. Myron Nichols are just to name a few who delivered that Ray's sting and provided her with the fundamentals of teaching. They continued to show her the power of fulfilling academic excellence, offering educational resources, and encouraging assertiveness amongst students so they can see their full potential. These educators' dedication, commitment, and inspiration served as the catalyst for her to continue within this profession.

Natasha's greatest accomplishments as a teacher are her students' success. This involves the drive of sharing scientific knowledge, challenging students to perform their ultimate best, and instilling a sense of gratification to serve others.

Servicing the community has been a significant part of her life and her students understand that giving is one path to growth and fulfillment. As the faculty advisor for the Nazareth Bay Chapter of National Honor Society, she has guided members with various projects throughout the school and assisted with development on their individual service projects. Guiding them along this path has led many students into leaving a positive impact on the community. Seeing the excitement and gratification on members' faces during, and after, the service has continued to be her utmost bliss. Their conversations of what they experience and how they cannot wait until the next service project is nourishing to the soul.

Progressing from day one with no teaching experience to teaching virtually and returning to in-person teaching, she has practiced many variations of teaching strategies, administrations, students, and life changing events. If Ms. Wright had the opportunity to change anything, she would keep it all the same. Teaching has made a significant difference in her life and, hopefully, has done the same for her students. The legacies of an educator has, and always will, be of significance in our VI culture, and Natasha Wright continues to add to our education system.