

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



Department of Education
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April 7, 2008

Mr. Shaine Gaspard
Executive Vice-President
Southland Gaming
1003 Estate Ross
Barbel Plaza #8
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Dear Mr. Gaspard:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation at your generosity as the St. Thomas-St. John District Office of the Insular Superintendent prepared to honor our 2008 District Teacher of the Year and the four finalists on December 9, 2007, at the Wyndham Sugar Bay Resort.

First, allow me to apologize for this letter getting to you so late. When I wrote to you in October and November 2007, requesting a donation for the 2008 Teacher of the Year dinner, I served in the capacity of Insular Superintendent of Schools for the St. Thomas-St. John District. Since holding the function, I have been reassigned to the school level and in the transition, this type of communication was reprioritized. I, however, would be remiss, if I did not thank you for your generosity and support as the St. Thomas-St. John District honored Mrs. Kimberly Sierra, 2008 Teacher of the Year (Joseph Sibilly Elementary School) and the four finalists: Mr. Clayton Emmanuel (Music Teacher, E. Benjamin Oliver), Mrs. Virginia Olivo (Reading Teacher, Leonard Dober Elementary), Idalia Dockery (Foreign Language Teacher, Charlotte Annalie High School) and Naomi Toussaint Williams (Music Teacher, Gladys Abraham Elementary).

I recognize that economically, these have become very challenging times for a business such as yours. Therefore, I wanted to not only say thank you in a letter, but also provide this plaque as a token of my appreciation for your support. I am most proud to say that it was made at the St. Thomas-St. John District Office/Curriculum Center by the production staff and serves as a lasting memento of my appreciation. You must be commended for your interest and concern for our schools, students and staff! I recognize that cooperative efforts such as you have made in contributing to the 2008 Teacher of the Year Dinner are especially valuable as they partner central staff, school personnel, community organizations and business people together for a common purpose: providing a quality educational experience for the students of the Virgin Islands!

Again, I thank you for your support and generosity and recognize that the structure you have built with that cooperation is very impressive. I look forward to partnering with you in the future as we make education a positive experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa A. Hassell-Forde in cursive script.
Lisa A. Hassell-Forde
Acting Principal