

# VIUCEDD to host monthly workshop on autism research

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ST. CROIX — The Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities will host its monthly workshop series Thursday on autism at the University of the Virgin Islands on St. Croix.

A similar workshop was held Tuesday on St. Thomas where educators, parents and community members received an overview of autism spectrum disorders, other pervasive developmental disorders and high incidence disabilities in general.

Presenters Kimberly Mills and Lindsey Wagner will lead a similar workshop from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at UVI's Albert A. Sheen campus.

According to VIUCEDD Program Coordinator Jerae Forde, Thursday's training will also highlight the latest research into programs and methodologies shown to mit-

igate problems associated with being diagnosed with autism, as well as general strategies for working with people with high incidence disabilities.

"The more we know, the more we can apply," Forde said. "Research and methodologies change just like technology advances with time and we are no longer using 18th century methodologies."

Forde said the monthly training series began last November and has been well-received by the public. She said prior to November, VIUCEDD hosted parental workshops.

Next month's topic will highlight applied behavior analysis.

Training workshop sponsors include the VI Department of Education, The Disability Rights Center, the VI Autism Network, Island Therapy Solutions, the VI Department of Health and VI Department of Human Services.