



# GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP

FROM BALTIMORE TO RICHMOND.  
FOSTERING UNITY. ADVANCING GROWTH.

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## **GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES NEW MILESTONE IN REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

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### **The Capital CoLAB: World Class Universities Partnering with Businesses to Drive Innovation and Ground Breaking Digital Technology Education**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership) announced the launch of the Capital CoLAB (Collaborative of Leaders in Academia and Business), a first-of-its-kind alliance of university and business leaders who have come together to take action to strengthen the Capital Region, spanning Baltimore to Richmond, and position the region as a leading global hub for innovation. The announcement is a milestone in the Capital Region coming together, across sectors and geographic boundaries, to harness the region’s unique strengths and growth potential.

The Capital CoLAB will initially focus on digital technology capabilities. While the Capital Region has the third largest digital technology workforce in the United States, businesses are still unable to fill tens of thousands of digital tech-oriented jobs today—risking the region’s future competitiveness. With the rapid pace of technological change, universities and employers need to partner to ensure higher education and workforce needs are better aligned. In areas like data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cybersecurity, the Capital Region is uniquely positioned for global leadership as a leading innovation ecosystem. But this requires organizations to partner and act at a scale that none can achieve alone.

“Today’s launch of the Capital CoLAB is a landmark moment, signaling the progress our region has made in breaking down barriers and coming together. Our region has enormous potential to



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become a leader in the global economy for years to come, but only if we work together to leverage our strengths across sectors and disciplines. The strength of this group of leading businesses and educational institutions is profound and demonstrates the uniqueness of the Capital Region,” said **Jason Miller, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Washington Partnership.**

Connecting the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia’s leading higher education institutions and employers through multi-university and multi-business initiatives, the Collaborative’s overall efforts will center on three broad areas: developing the talent and workforce the region needs now and in the future; developing cutting-edge technology capabilities to position the region for global leadership; and improving awareness of the super-region as a leading innovation hub.

“I am thrilled about this new partnership because as business leaders we recognize the invaluable role that universities play in preparing our region’s workforce,” said **Russ Ramsey, Chairman of the Greater Washington Partnership and CEO of Ramsey Asset Management.** “The Capital CoLAB gives us—at unmatched scale—the opportunity to bring the business voice together with the university voice to drive future economic growth and prosperity.”

The Collaborative is at work on two major initiatives. The first will create unique regionwide credentials to increase the quantity and quality of digital technology talent emerging from local undergraduate programs. Developed jointly by businesses and universities, the credentials will be recognized by regional businesses as differentiators in hiring and deploying talent. The Business-Higher Education Forum is partnering with the Collaborative to develop student pathways to earn the credentials. The digital technology credentials are part of the Business Roundtable’s new Workforce Partnership Initiative (WPI) to tackle current and future skills development challenges and drive economic growth in seven regions, including the Capital Region, around the United States.

The second will showcase the region’s leadership in important digital technology innovations. The Tech Showcase will highlight the “best of” innovative research, technology application and thought-leadership. The event will reinforce the value of strong partnerships between academic institutions, industry and government and elevate the perception of the Capital Region as a producer of digital technology research and top talent.

The Capital Region produces more digital tech talent than any other region in the United States. The region’s institutions contribute to one of the most robust and interconnected environments for innovation in the world. Universities and affiliated research laboratories expended more than \$5.3 billion in university-based research and development in 2016—far more than other areas





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considered innovation hotbeds such as the Bay Area and Boston. The Capital Region is at the crossroads of research and development, policy, business, media and national security, anchored by the U.S. federal government, which positions it to lead the nation's digital transformation.

The universities and businesses that have come together to form the Collaborative include:

## Universities

American University  
Georgetown University  
George Mason University  
The George Washington University  
Howard University  
Johns Hopkins University  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University System of Maryland  
University of Richmond  
University of Virginia  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Tech

## Businesses

Capital One  
Exelon  
EY  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
MedImmune  
MedStar Health  
Monumental Sports & Entertainment  
McKinsey & Company  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
Under Armour

## Notable Statements of Support

"Georgetown is committed to working toward the common good in the District of Columbia and the metropolitan region," said **Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia**. "This new partnership brings together the collective strengths of our business and higher education communities in the Capital Region. Through its work, we have new possibilities to come together and to address the challenges and opportunities that we share."

"George Mason University has a rich history of collaborating with industry and government leaders in cybersecurity, biotechnology and other fields to produce talent, research and ideas that can fuel innovation and economic growth in our region," said **George Mason President Ángel Cabrera**. "More than 11,000 of our 36,000 students are in science, technology, and health-related fields, and our partnership with Inova Health System to pursue advancements in genomic and bioinformatics research is an example of how academia and industry can maximize our collective strengths. The Capital CoLAB will empower us to reach across jurisdictional lines and fulfill the vast promise of this vibrant corridor of the country."





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“With the addition of our state of the art Science and Engineering Hall and the growth of our research footprint, the George Washington University has made a significant investment to advance innovation and education in the Capital Region,” said **George Washington University President Thomas LeBlanc**. “The university is also fostering substantive collaborations between our preeminent arts and design programs and our science, technology and engineering programs. We look forward to working with the Capital CoLAB to unite our efforts in making this region a place for opportunity, creativity, innovation and excellence.”

“Building a broad, effective ecosystem for innovation across the region requires this kind of partnership among universities and businesses—none of us can do it alone,” said **Ronald J. Daniels, President of Johns Hopkins University**. “At Johns Hopkins, we look forward to helping to build up this activity, supporting local and regional innovation that will attract new businesses, workers, and academic talent, and unleash the potential of our Baltimore-to-Richmond corridor.”

“At UMBC, we believe that excellence and opportunity comes from partnerships,” said **Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)**. “We are excited about joining this impressive group of corporate and academic leaders, focused on celebrating and strengthening the region, from Baltimore to Richmond. We look forward to working with the Partnership members to leverage our strengths as institutions and businesses to ensure that more individuals from all backgrounds have access to the kinds of skills they need to build rewarding careers.”

“Working together, we can prepare a new generation of workers and business leaders, as well as the technology that will create new industries,” said **University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh**. “The power of this initiative can be seen in our many successful partnerships.”

“Representing 12 universities with more than 170,000 students and 38,000 graduates each year, the University System of Maryland is the state’s most significant producer of tech talent and high-skilled workers,” said **University System of Maryland (USM) Chancellor Robert Caret**. “Targeting current and future workforce needs, we’ve already doubled the number of graduates with cyber degrees and increased STEM degrees by almost two-thirds since 2011. By bridging state and institutional boundaries, the Greater Washington Partnership’s Capital CoLAB will help USM work with partners across the region to continue creating the digital talent pool that will drive our economy for years to come.”

“University of Richmond faculty and students are actively partnering with agencies, organizations, and businesses in our region to address on-going challenges, advance the welfare of our community and contribute to a thriving area economy,” said **Richmond President, Ronald A. Crutcher**. “Our UR Downtown initiative represents but one example of our commitment to engage our students and faculty in the work that is transforming Virginia’s capital city, facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship and stimulating a powerful engine of economic and social growth. Our participation in the Collaborative recognizes our pledge to work with others to effectively





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engage our faculty experts and leverage student talent to make a lasting difference in the vitality of our city, state and region, and to prepare our students to lead the workforce of the future.”

“UVA has a history of collaborating with partners in higher education, business and government to drive innovation, economic growth and workforce development in our region and beyond,” said **UVA President Teresa A. Sullivan**. “Through the Greater Washington Partnership and the Capital CoLAB, we can now work with university and industry partners locally to strengthen the innovation ecosystem from Baltimore to Richmond while producing the human talent to fulfill the region’s promise.”

“VCU is pleased to leverage its strengths as a leader in the Richmond region’s talent pipeline and the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem to advance the Collaborative’s initiatives,” said **Michael Rao, President, VCU and the VCU Health System**. “VCU shares the Collaborative’s commitment to interdisciplinary research and technical innovation to serve the public good, beginning with our Venture Creation University that works with business and government partners to provide pathways to ensure VCU students graduate with an entrepreneurial mindset, ready to feed the region’s growing innovation economy.”

“As universities anticipate the Capital Region’s needs and opportunities in our strategic planning, there is tremendous opportunity for cross-sector collaboration,” said **Virginia Tech President Tim Sands**. “By aligning our unique signature strengths, we can be responsive to regional business needs and address challenges beyond the capacity of a single institution or industry.”

*For more information about the Capital CoLAB or the Greater Washington Partnership, contact Steven Chlapecka at [skc@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com](mailto:skc@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com) or call 202.871.9914.*

## **About the Greater Washington Partnership**

The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of CEOs in the region, drawing from the leading employers and entrepreneurs committed to making the Capital Region—from Baltimore to Richmond—one of the world’s best places to live, work and build a business. Working in collaboration with leaders across our communities, the Partnership connects and leverages the region’s extraordinary assets to advance inclusive, actionable solutions that strengthen Greater Washington as a leading global region and center for commerce and innovation.

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