



# GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP

FROM BALTIMORE TO RICHMOND.  
FOSTERING UNITY. ADVANCING GROWTH.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Greater Washington Partnership Announces Progress on Capital CoLAB with National & Regional Leaders**

***George Mason University & Virginia Commonwealth University Launch Digital Tech Credentials; New Employers Join CoLAB & Additional Universities Set to Launch Credential This Fall***

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Washington, D.C.—The [Greater Washington Partnership](#) (the Partnership) today announced that four major regional employers—ASGN, Amazon Web Services, General Dynamics, and Washington Gas—will join the [Capital CoLAB](#) (Collaborative of Leaders in Academia and Business). The announcement was made at an event co-hosted by Business Roundtable that brought together national and regional leaders to showcase the Capital CoLAB as a national model for regional business-university collaboration to develop talent at scale. The Partnership also announced that George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University have launched the Partnership's Digital Tech Credential program and American University, University of Richmond, and Virginia Tech will launch the program this fall.

At the center of the Capital CoLAB's work is the Greater Washington Partnership's Digital Technology Credential. Developed in partnership with the Business-Higher Education Forum and Business Roundtable, the credential helps undergraduate students at institutions in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia develop the skills they need to compete in today's economy, creating a broader talent pipeline for employers across the region.



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Through the CoLAB, the credential will connect students at participating universities with top businesses to develop the region's talent and support student access to opportunity across the region. This initial credential develops capabilities in areas such as data analytics, visualization, and cybersecurity, using competencies defined by employers across multiple industries.

"The alliance of top university and business leaders engaged in the CoLAB is a testament to the Capital Region's incredible potential and the leaders in our communities who believe in it," **said Wes Bush, Chairman of Northrop Grumman and inaugural Chair of the Capital CoLAB.** "The CoLAB is a national model for how businesses and universities can collaborate to address our nation's talent needs at the scale of the challenge."

Today's event, moderated by Greg Ip of *The Wall Street Journal*, featured a conversation with Jamie Dimon, JPMorgan Chase Chairman and CEO and Chairman of Business Roundtable; Wes Bush, Chairman of Northrop Grumman; Sylvia Mathews Burwell, President of American University; and Freeman A. Hrabowski III, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). The Partnership also announced that Wes Bush will be the inaugural chair of the Capital CoLAB, launched by the Partnership in 2018. The event also featured remarks from Mark Weinberger, Global Chairman and CEO of EY and Russ Ramsey, Chairman of the Greater Washington Partnership.

"This is a major milestone for the Capital CoLAB effort and for the Greater Washington Partnership, demonstrating the progress our region has made," **said Jason Miller, CEO of the Greater Washington Partnership.** "The creation of digital technology education—aligned with regional business needs—across our region's leading universities will reinforce that progress as the CoLAB supports the Capital Region's transformation into a thriving global hub for innovation."

The CoLAB is a first-of-its-kind alliance of university and business leaders from across the Capital Region who have come together to position the Capital Region to become a leading global hub for innovation. The CoLAB creates change at scale by engaging multiple universities and businesses simultaneously to develop the talent and workforce needed now and in the future, connect innovators across sectors to develop and commercialize cutting-edge technologies, and improve the global perception of the Capital Region as a leading innovation hub.

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





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## **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 the Capital Region as a leading global region and center for commerce and innovation.

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