



# GREATER WASHINGTON PARTNERSHIP

FROM BALTIMORE TO RICHMOND.  
FOSTERING UNITY. ADVANCING GROWTH.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Greater Washington Partnership Names JB Holston As New Chief Executive Officer

*Holston brings a wealth of experience in global business, developing digital technology talent, and deep innovation, civic and policy experience to the Partnership at this critical time for growth and rebuilding in the Capital Region*

Washington, D.C.— After a nationwide search for a visionary and experienced leader, the Greater Washington Partnership announced today that it has named JB Holston as its new Chief Executive Officer. He will assume the role of CEO in September 2020.

The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of CEOs, drawing from the 27 leading employers and entrepreneurs, that together employ more than 250,000 people in the Capital Region. The Partnership is about solutions and unity, bringing people, organizations, and jurisdictions together to make the Capital Region the world's best place to live, work, raise a family, and build a business.

“On behalf of the Board and all our stakeholders, I am delighted to welcome JB as the Partnership’s new CEO,” said **Russ Ramsey, Chairman of the Greater Washington Partnership**. “He is a proven leader, entrepreneur and innovator, with a clear track record of leading critical and complex organizations and is well-positioned to lead the Partnership’s continued growth and transformation in the region. With more than three decades in leadership roles, JB has the experience and understanding of how to drive results and scale projects across multiple areas including business, higher education, technology, and public policy. His demonstrated success in multiple markets including Denver, New York and Munich, Germany along with his business acumen, integrity, passion and commitment to our region are important qualities that made him stand out in this nationwide search.”



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Holston has spent the last three decades as a successful global business executive and entrepreneur in sectors ranging from media, technology, and academia. For the past four years he has been the Dean of the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Denver. As Dean, he reinvigorated the computer science and engineering disciplines and reconnected the University at scale to Colorado and the country's innovation economy. Earlier in his career, Holston held senior executive positions at both GE and NBC and was recruited from GE by publishing executive Bill Ziff to manage his international businesses, based in New York City and Munich, Germany. While working for Ziff, Holston served as a member of the core executive team that closed the \$1.4 billion management buy-out of Ziff-Davis with private equity firm Forstmann Little. In 2014, prior to becoming Dean, Holston was Founding Executive Director of the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network in Colorado. He began his career at the Boston Consulting Group.

"I am honored and incredibly excited to assume this new role, and for the future of the Greater Washington Partnership," said Holston. "We are at a unique era for our nation and the Capital Region, as we all continue to address the impacts of COVID-19. The pandemic has emphasized the critical need for unified regional initiatives and I look forward to working closely with the Partnership's exceptional Board and staff, and fully engaging with all of the region's stakeholders including policymakers and leaders across communities and in business and academia to help build a bright, inclusive and stronger future together."

As a civic alliance of the Capital Region's leading CEOs, the Greater Washington Partnership is playing a critical role in bringing the region together to accomplish big things. In three short years the Partnership has had an immediate impact on the issues and opportunities that differentiate the Capital Region as a leading innovative regional economy, including:

- Launching the Capital CoLAB (Collaborative of Leaders in Academia and Business), a first-of-its-kind partnership of businesses and educators working together to develop talent in the region by providing them with the needed digital skills to create a stronger pipeline into the workforce. To date, the CoLAB has engaged 19 leading employers, 12 universities, five K-12 school districts, and numerous partners across Baltimore, DC and Richmond in our effort to grow the region into one of the nation's leading hubs for digital tech employment.
- Unprecedented collaboration on regional mobility, making progress on major priorities outlined in the Partnership's [Blueprint for Regional Mobility](#) including addressing rail capacity, re-envisioning mobility funding and expanding the usefulness and competitiveness of our regional transportation systems.





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- Being a driving force behind the regional effort to land Amazon’s second headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. The Partnership played a central role in supporting the unprecedented collaboration between Governor Ralph Northam (Virginia), Governor Larry Hogan (Maryland) and Mayor Muriel Bowser (District of Columbia) to attract Amazon’s investment in the Capital Region. The Partnership’s [“when one wins, we all win”](#) became a rallying cry for bringing together leaders from across business, higher education and government to help secure Amazon’s commitment to the region.
- Launching with the Urban Institute and JPMorgan Chase a Regional Housing Framework — an effort to catalyze and inform action to address the Capital Region's future housing needs, beginning with the Washington metropolitan area.
- Coalescing the business community in the Capital Region to work in lockstep with elected leaders and partners to ensure the region has a coordinated, thoughtful, approach to the COVID-19 pandemic moving forward. The Partnership released a set of [Reopening Principles](#) intended to serve as guideposts for the jurisdictions to adopt as they finalize their own reopening plans in the coming weeks and months.

At a time of enhanced regionalism with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership’s work to help drive business solutions is now more important than ever, and having a strong leader with deep experience building an innovation economy from the ground up during this critical moment is imperative.

“JB is the right leader for the Greater Washington Partnership at this important moment,” said **Mark Weinberger, Former EY Global Chairman and CEO and Co-Chair of the Search Committee.** “JB ticks all the boxes; he is a proven leader in global business, started and scaled major innovative businesses, played a major role in the education system, and has extensive civic and public policy experience. His experience and expertise creating partnerships with corporate and government leaders will be important to the Partnership’s success during this critical time for our nation and for the Capital Region.”

As a trusted source to government, education and private sector leadership, Holston has been a leader on a broad range of initiatives around innovation, entrepreneurship, the future of digital technology, and policy. He has recently been tapped by Governor Jared Polis and other elected, business and education leaders to coordinate and accelerate the business community’s collective regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.





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"JB has been an extremely valuable partner over the years in Colorado, and it has been an honor to work with him on partnerships that have driven innovation and entrepreneurship in our state," **said Senator Michael Bennet**. "JB's creative thinking will be sorely missed in Colorado, but I'm looking forward to continuing to work with him in the Capital Region."

"JB and I have worked closely together building the Colorado entrepreneurial ecosystem for over 25 years," said **Brad Feld, Partner, Foundry Group and Co-Founder of Techstars**. "We've partnered on many initiatives: startups, the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network, and most recently our work together for Governor Jared Polis on COVID-19 relief and recovery. JB is a remarkable business and civic leader, and a bridge-builder across traditional silos; someone with great strategic vision who will open any door and be welcomed on the other side. We're going to miss him in Colorado, but I know we'll both continue to learn together as we continue to partner to grow America's innovation economy."

## **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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