



Expanding Access, Powering Impact

2026 PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Greater Access, Higher Earnings, and a Top Research University

George Mason is one of just five very large public universities designated in the highest tier of Opportunity Colleges and Universities by the Carnegie Foundation and American Council on Education

TOP 40 among public universities nationally

Wall Street Journal

Top university in Virginia for **UPWARD MOBILITY**

Wall Street Journal and U.S. News & World Report

Top public university in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., for **SALARY OUTCOMES**

Wall Street Journal

A top college for **VETERANS**

Silver ranking, Military Friendly® School

Top public university in Virginia for **BEST VALUE**

Wall Street Journal

Top public university in Virginia for **ACCESS**

Washington Monthly



TOP 5 public university in Virginia for **STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

Wall Street Journal



Washington Monthly's
BEST BANG FOR THE BUCK
in the Southeast



"As the university for all Virginians, George Mason delivers with a scale of impact that has no equal in our region and state and very few equals nationally."

DEAR FRIENDS,

George Mason University serves many stakeholders. Students and families are drawn to our career-making academic programs, flexibility, and value. State and regional employers rely on our talent pool and innovation. Research partners tap into the vast expertise of our faculty. Workers who need upskilling, reskilling, or support to start their own business look to us. Arts patrons and sports fans eager to be part of a community of excellence pack our bleachers and concert halls.

The Carnegie Foundation and American Council on Education determined in 2025 that George Mason is the only public doctoral university in Virginia—and one of just five very large public universities in the nation—in the highest tier of Opportunity Colleges and Universities for its combination of higher access and higher earnings, and being a top research university.

Higher access. Higher earnings. Is there any higher praise for an institution of higher education?

George Mason accepts about 90 percent of applicants, including students enrolling out of high school, through direct admission programs, community college or other institutions, the military, and the workforce. We have no marked disparity in graduation rates among groups in regard to race, ethnicity, or economic status.

Visionary business leaders determined more than a half century ago that for Northern Virginia to thrive, it needed a major public research university driving it. We have flourished hand in hand. Employers tell us what skills their employees need to have, and in partnership we design courses to meet existing needs and anticipate future ones. Crucial workforce gaps are why in recent years we have launched both the first College of Public Health in Virginia and the state's first School of Computing, the latter highlighting our role as a leading partner in the state's Tech Talent Investment Program.

Since George Mason is a major public research university, society looks to us to confront the most pressing issues of our time. Through our Grand Challenge Initiative, we identify six focus areas of George Mason expertise to preserve and protect humanity's ability to build the future of its choosing. We are also positioning George Mason to be a nexus for AI innovation, which ties into many global challenges as well as our daily work and personal lives.

For Virginians who need help starting or growing a business, we offer Mason Enterprise™ and a network of Small Business Development Centers across the state. In addition, the Lab-to-Launch initiative, a partnership with five in-state partner universities, positions George Mason at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurship, accelerating the commercialization of research and fostering start-up growth.

George Mason powers the Northern Virginia economic corridor that runs from Mason Square in Arlington, home of Fuse, our hub for emerging public-private tech partnerships; to the Fairfax Campus, where we are beginning to plan for an expansion of its western portion; to the Science and Technology Campus in Manassas, where the university anchors the region's first Innovation District.

Whichever direction you go, the road to innovation and prosperity in Northern Virginia runs through George Mason University. That road also leads the community to the arts, Division I athletics, and to a resource for lifelong learning, summer camps, cultural events, and other offerings that attract and connect Northern Virginians.

We're a step above, and in lockstep with the region we proudly serve.

Gregory Washington

President, George Mason University

POWERING THE POSSIBLE VISIONARY INVESTMENTS

Mason Now: Power the Possible is a \$1 billion vision for the future, and together, we are more than halfway to our goal. George Mason was built from the ground up by, for, and with this region and the state. Donors are seizing opportunities to break the mold on what is possible, working with our leadership, our faculty, and our students to yet again be a beacon of opportunity and hope for a bright future, and a model in higher education. Here are some of the visionary examples of the philanthropic leadership and commitment transforming the university and communities far beyond our campus perimeters—enabling new scholarships, groundbreaking research, partnerships, and innovative learning environments to help students thrive, ideas flourish, and communities prosper.

Opening Hearts and Minds for What Is Possible

Tommy Everett and Sarah Hormel Everett have pledged an additional \$1.2 million toward the Mats Hormel vQ Scholarship Endowment in honor of their son, a former Mason LIFE student. The endowment now includes two full-ride scholarships for the comprehensive four-year postsecondary transition program. Mason LIFE offers young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities a full university experience in a supportive academic environment with the goal of gaining independent living skills.

A Dedication to Future Generations

Through scholarships and STEM initiatives, Stanley and Rosemary Hayes Jones have helped to close the achievement gap for first-generation college students and engage more K-12 students through George Mason's Early Identification Program. The Jones family continues to empower innovation at George Mason with a transformative \$1.4 million gift to establish the Stanley and Rosemary Hayes Jones Networking Testbed Lab at Fuse at Mason Square.

Fearless and Formidable

The George Mason University Debate Team has stood for more than five decades as one of the nation's premier teams, ranked among the top five programs in the country built on academic rigor, accessibility, and community. Former debate team alum Burton C. Gray Jr., BA Economics; English '95, who was influenced by longtime team director, Warren Decker, has a vision for more students to reap the same benefits as he did through his personal investment of \$150,000 for Decker Scholarships. "Debate is about committing, researching, working hard, and showing up every day," he said. "If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere; you become academically fearless and intellectually formidable."

MASON NOW
POWER THE POSSIBLE



A LEGACY OF IMPACT »

Building on their previous investments in George Mason dating back to 2006, Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong are shepherding a new generation of professionals in Virginia. A gift with an impact of \$36 million names the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong School of Computing within the College of Engineering and Computing and establishes multiple endowments for scholarships and student-success initiatives in computing, nursing, education, and journalism.



Trailblazing for the Next Generation

Distinguished University Professor Emeritus Jagadish Shukla's impact spans the globe, from modernizing India's weather enterprise to serving as lead author of the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shared the Nobel Peace Prize. He joined the university in 1994, founded the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences (AOES), and established the Climate Dynamics PhD Program, the first of its kind in the country. More than 60 PhDs have since graduated from the program. Jagadish and Anastasia Shukla's AOES Fellowship endowment, which supports graduate students pursuing their PhD in climate dynamics, is among the largest philanthropy commitments made by a George Mason faculty member. Shukla continues to grow the endowment, and the department itself will bear his name.

Building a Strong Community, Dollar by Dollar

More than 150 George Mason University friends, donors, alumni, faculty, and staff attended the annual Food for Thought event at Leidos global headquarters, raising \$145,000 for George Mason's Center for Community Mental Health. The center provides critical mental health services to children, teens, adults, and veterans in Northern Virginia. The primary training clinic for George Mason doctoral candidates in clinical psychology is fulfilling the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' goal to help students create the changes that will make our communities a better place.

Endowments and Professorships

Many donors have stepped up to push George Mason forward, including:

- The **Bob Spousta** Crew Club Coaches Endowment establishes funding for future Crew Club coaches to continue the legacy of Spousta, who retired after 28 years as head coach.
- The **Ed and Sally Bedsworth** Memorial Endowed Scholarship enables George Mason economics students to expand their educational horizons.
- The **Robert D. Johnston** Professorship of Finance honors the Associate Professor Emeritus of Finance for his contributions to George Mason.



George Mason Drives

STUDENT OUTCOMES

📷 At just 16, Yevin Goonatilake became George Mason's youngest-ever graduate with both a bachelor's and a master's degree in computer science—with a perfect 4.0 GPA at each level. While enrolled in the Bachelor's to Accelerated Master's Program, he balanced advanced coursework, research in cryptographic watermarking, and his passion for professional cricket. He plans to pursue a PhD.

An Unwavering Focus on Student Success

EMPOWERING EVERY STUDENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GEORGE MASON'S STORY


George Mason Earns Elite Recognition as a Carnegie Opportunity College and University

Carnegie Foundation's Higher Access, Higher Earnings distinction places George Mason University among an exclusive group of institutions committed to driving student success through accessibility, achievement, and upward mobility. With access and earnings scores that outperform comparison benchmarks—and as the only public doctoral university in Virginia to receive this honor—George Mason is proving its dedication to helping students from all backgrounds thrive in today's workforce. This recognition underscores how the university's inclusive admissions, robust transfer pathways, and strong graduate outcomes combine to transform lives and uplift communities.

Record Study-Abroad Scholarships

George Mason set a record with 15 students selected as Gilman Scholars and awarded scholarships to study abroad. The most represented majors among the scholarship recipients included computer science with three awardees and business with two recipients. Nationwide, 3,500 undergraduate students out of 17,000 applicants received scholarships to study abroad in more than 170 countries in spring 2025.



 George Mason's vibrant campus life is powered by hundreds of student-led organizations that help students find a true sense of belonging. With 737 registered groups ranging from academic and cultural organizations to service clubs, 38 fraternities and sororities, and more than 30 club sports teams, George Mason offers countless ways for students to engage and build community.

Supporting Lifelong Students Across the Region

George Mason launched Mason Career Academy in spring 2025 to provide students, faculty, and displaced workers with flexible access to more than 90 online microcredentials and industry certifications. The academy helps learners build in-demand skills, enhance career readiness, and support lifelong learning and regional economic resilience.

George Mason is transforming the student lifecycle experience and support with a new university-wide information platform, called Patriot Connect.

Success Coaching for the Whole Student

George Mason's Student Success Coaching, which complements academic advising and focuses on holistic student support, entered its ninth year and has expanded to offer peer-to-peer professional knowledge-sharing with the Ignite Coaching Conference. The conference brings together more than 550 professionals from 43 institutions to explore frameworks for coaching, inclusion, and student life. George Mason's nationally recognized student program continues to set the standard for evidence-based, student-centered coaching in higher education.

Mason Korea Prepares Students for Success Across Borders

Mason Korea advances George Mason's mission of preparing students for success in an interconnected world. Home to students from more than 25 countries, the campus has enabled our undergraduates to achieve remarkable outcomes, from cowriting a peer-reviewed international journal article on water quality to presenting innovative research on urban flooding at a leading planning conference.

The recently established Center for Korean Culture and Society at Mason Korea is a world-class K-culture and content research hub. The center will host domestic and international academic conferences and research projects in the media content industry, as well as K-pop, gaming, sports, and tourism.

With programs spanning computational and data sciences, business, economics, and computer game design—and one year of study in Virginia through the 3+1 Program—Mason Korea equips students with the skills, global perspective, and real-world experience needed to thrive academically and professionally.

The Costello College of Business is executing on its Pan-Asia global engagement strategy from east to west, a plan that plays to the strengths of each region, including cultural exchange and experiential learning initiatives in the northeast and southeast (Mason Korea and Vietnam, respectively), academic excellence and scholarship in the south (India), and immersive learning and alumni engagement in the west (Qatar and Saudi Arabia).





Direct Admissions Program

40 → **3,500** → **500** → **45%**
schools eligible students students admitted enrollment increase



Early Identification Program (EIP)

70+ → **1,100+** → **98%** → **2,400+**
schools participating students college bound alumni



ADVANCE

6 → **600** → **96%** → **6,500+**
community colleges new transfers retention students enrolled to date

More Pathways Mean Helping More Virginians Access Higher Education

» Direct Admissions Program

Creates a simplified path to college for eligible Northern Virginia high school students, providing hands-on financial aid support.

» Early Identification Program

A nearly 40-year initiative that prepares first-generation students from grades 8 through 12 for college success through academic enrichment and mentoring.

» ADVANCE

A seamless transfer pathway from Virginia community colleges, enabling students to earn a bachelor's degree without losing credit. Nationally recognized in *Transfer Playbook 2.0*, by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and the Community College Research Center, as a model that accelerates degree completion.

George Mason Students Achieve Amazing Things

WITH 85 PERCENT OF GRADUATES ACHIEVING POSITIVE CAREER OUTCOMES WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND 85 PERCENT CHOOSING TO STAY IN THE REGION, ALUMNI ARE DRIVING INNOVATION AND GROWTH CLOSE TO HOME



Jayme Kurland

Living her dream in New York City, history PhD student Jayme Kurland served as a Jane and Morgan Whitney Fellow at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. She blended her love of music, research, and museum work while writing her dissertation on the Mexican American women who helped shape musical instrument maker Fender's early history. She also shared her research with the public through presentations, programs, and the Met's Research Out Loud symposium, a forum where other Met fellows discuss their work.



Camila Rosales

Camila Rosales is a business major concentrating in operations and supply chain management and the president of George Mason's Food Recovery Network chapter. The chapter has recovered more than 1,600 pounds of food since 2018. Under Rosales's leadership, the group recovered more than 1,000 pounds of food in spring 2025, redistributed it to local shelters, and supported food security on campus. Their work also advanced the university's sustainability goals. A Costello College of Business Impact Fellow, Rosales accepted a Jack Wood Award for Town-Gown Relations on behalf of the network.

» 1 in 4 George Mason undergraduate students identifies as first generation


» Largest incoming class: 7,800+ students

» Largest freshmen class from Virginia: 3,628

» Most academically talented first-year, first-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students:

73% of incoming students with 3.5+ GPA, 28% with a 4.0 GPA



 George Mason's 2025 Spring Commencement student speaker was Duy Vu. The public administration and finance major's journey reflects resilience, a global perspective, and the success of the university's supportive pathways to education.



Andres Rosero

Working in the Applied Psychology and Autonomous Systems Lab in the Human Factors and Applied Cognition Program, George Mason alum and doctoral student Andres Rosero, MA Psychology '22, explores human-robot interaction and deception, studying how people respond when robots lie or withhold information. His research combines psychology, AI, and ethics to inform robotics and improve real-world human-technology collaboration. He completed his PhD in June.



Fardin Ahsan Sakib

Fardin Ahsan Sakib, a PhD student in computer science, is advancing research to make AI in health care more accurate and equitable. His work focuses on bias and reliability in natural language processing and has earned recognition at a premier international conference. Through internships with Brilliant Corporation and Amazon, he has applied his expertise to real-world challenges, gaining industry experience, contributing to a patent, and building the skills to create an impact at the intersection of research and health technology.



Xavier Jimenez

Xavier Jimenez, BA Film and Video Studies '25, won his first Capital Emmy Student Production Award in the commercial category. He created his behind-the-scenes promotional video for a course aimed at prospective students. Through George Mason's Film and Video Studies Program, he was able to gain hands-on experience and hone his talents in directing, shooting, and editing.

FACULTY LEADING THE WAY

Presidential Faculty Excellence Awards

Each year, these awards recognize excellence in teaching, research, inclusion, and social impact.

- The John Toups Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Teaching is presented to a faculty member whose teaching inspires and encourages students in the finest tradition of higher education.
- The Beck Family Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Research recognizes extraordinary contributions by members of the George Mason faculty to consequential research of high impact.
- The United Bank Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community recognizes extraordinary contributions in teaching, research, scholarship, creative works, or service that directly advance access and inclusion inside and outside the George Mason community.
- The Earle C. Williams Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Social Impact is presented to a faculty member in any discipline who makes extraordinary efforts to use their scholarship to solve real-world problems.



Angela Miller

Professor, College of Education and Human Development

The John Toups Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Teaching

Miller led efforts to redesign the research methods curriculum for PhD students, including developing three new courses.



Allison Redlich

Distinguished University Professor, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Beck Family Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Research

Redlich is the founder and director of George Mason's Modeling Decision-Making in the Legal System (MoDiLS) Lab.



Jacqueline McDowell

Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development

The United Bank Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community

A well-respected scholar, McDowell's work focuses primarily on inclusion in organized sports and recreation organizations.



Rebecca Goldin

Professor, College of Science

The Earle C. Williams Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Social Impact

Goldin serves as a driving force behind a global effort aimed at promoting statistical literacy among journalists and connecting the scientific community to the media.

2025 Award Recipients

Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award Recipient **Bethany Cieslowski**, Chief Innovation Officer for Immersive Technologies and Instructional Associate Professor, School of Nursing, College of Public Health

Faculty Excellence in Research Award Recipient **Weiwen Jiang**, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, College of Engineering and Computing

Faculty Excellence in Research Award Recipient **Xuesu Xiao**, Assistant Professor, Computer Science Department, College of Engineering and Computing

Faculty Excellence in Research Award Recipient **Aarthi Narayanan**, Professor, Biology Department, College of Science


Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community Award Recipient **Daphne King**, Assistant Professor, Social Work Department, College of Public Health

Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community Award Recipient **Janani Umamaheswar**, Associate Professor, Criminology, Law and Society, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Faculty Excellence in Social Impact Award Recipient **Margarita Tadevosyan**, Research Assistant Professor and Executive Director, Center for Peacemaking Practice, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Faculty Excellence in Social Impact Award Recipient **Susan Howard**, Instructional Associate Professor, School of Integrative Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences



 Presidential Faculty Excellence in Research Award recipient Xuesu Xiao (left foreground) with students in the RobotiXX Lab at the Grand Celebration for Fuse held at Mason Square.



A FUTURE WE WANT

ONE GRAND CHALLENGE SIX GRAND SOLUTIONS

This year, George Mason launched its Grand Challenge Initiative (GCI), a comprehensive research framework backed by an initial five-year, \$15 million investment. The initiative aligns university resources, faculty expertise, and educational programs around six interconnected solution areas addressing what George Mason President Gregory Washington describes as “humanity’s ultimate grand challenge”—securing a peaceful, healthy, and prosperous future.

Andre Marshall, vice president for research, innovation, and economic impact, leads the initiative, which was developed through a faculty-driven task force and focuses on six grand solutions.

- **Advancing 21st-century education for all**
- **Building a climate-resilient society**
- **Driving responsible digital innovation and sustainable infrastructure**
- **Improving human health, well-being, and preparedness**
- **Pioneering space exploration, research, and collaboration**
- **Strengthening peace, trust, and engagement in democracy**

“George Mason is driven by discovery,” said Marshall. “This means unleashing our bold ideas from their theoretical and laboratory boundaries, thoughtfully cultivating them as they take shape, and fearlessly deploying them as innovations that will transform our lives.”



GCI will enhance educational opportunities, increase faculty talent and expertise, align current research projects, seed new proposals, and build essential infrastructure across George Mason’s campuses. Working in conjunction with the university’s

\$1 billion Mason Now: Power the Possible campaign, the initiative seeks partnerships with government, industry, and nongovernmental organizations.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GCI



George Mason Drives

RESEARCH SOLUTIONS



At the intersection of imaging, computer graphics, and computer vision, George Mason's Imaging and Vision Lab is pushing the boundaries of visual technology. Directed by Jinwei Ye, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science, the lab explores every stage of the imaging pipeline—from data acquisition to 3D rendering—by designing novel algorithms, imaging systems, and immersive environments.

Advancing Vital Research

GEORGE MASON IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES YET TO BE IMAGINED

NIH Grant Explores Chronic Knee Pain

For millions of Americans, chronic musculoskeletal pain is a daily reality that makes even simple activities feel daunting. Researchers at George Mason's Center for Advancing Systems Science and Bioengineering Innovation (CASSBI) are leading a new \$4.65 million National Institutes of Health-funded R01 study to better understand what shapes those experiences, and how to improve care.

The multidisciplinary team will work to solve this problem by studying how physical, biological, emotional, and social factors come together to shape the daily experience of living with chronic knee pain. They will look at whether analyzing multiple symptoms over time can help identify important turning points in a person's pain journey, and how each individual's particular mix of stress, biology, and movement plays a role in achieving maximal potential for function.

Over the next four years, the team will recruit participants with chronic knee pain. For one year, participants will be followed closely, with data collected every three months on their biomechanics, physical function, biological health, and psychosocial well-being. A smartphone app will also allow participants to share daily reflections, giving researchers an unprecedented look into the lived experience of chronic pain.

George Mason Research

1,350+

Proposals Submitted
(up 10% over 10 years)

\$708 MILLION

Value of Proposals
(up 57% over 10 years)

\$169 MILLION

Awards Received
(up 69% over 10 years)

\$204 MILLION

Expenditures
(up 102% over 10 years)

62


New Inventions

167


Patents on Record
(151 U.S. + 16 International)

Federal Funding Fuels Impactful Research

- Through the National Science Foundation-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program, 10 students from across the country will take part in field-based conservation projects this summer at the Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, which is a partnership between George Mason and the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.
- With the support of a \$1.9 million U.S. Department of Justice training grant, George Mason researchers Elizabeth Levine Brown, Stephanie Dailey, and Samantha Viano are working to integrate comprehensive school-based mental health systems as part of proactive violence prevention programming in public middle schools in Prince William County, Virginia.
- The National Institutes of Health for the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN) awarded Faye S. Taxman another \$16.5 million. Taxman, Distinguished University Professor in the Schar School, initially spearheaded the establishment of JCOIN in 2018 to improve the treatment of opioid use disorders. This additional funding will allow the research network to expand its focus beyond opioids to general substance abuse disorders.
- Alicia Hong, a digital health intervention researcher in the College of Public Health, received a \$3 million grant from the National Institute on Aging to refine Wellness Enhancement for Caregivers, or WECARE, for dementia caregivers.

 For firefighters, even training is a risk, but augmented reality can provide a safe alternative. With the support of a National Science Foundation grant, George Mason researchers Craig Yu and Joel Martin are developing an augmented reality program that could help train firefighters while minimizing the risk of injury.



 Students partnered with the Living Reef Action Campaign to build 19 reef structures. When deployed at sites across the lower Potomac and middle Chesapeake Bay, the structures are expected to bolster oyster populations and the habitat to support diverse marine life.



AI-Powered Interactive Games Provide Emergency Response Training

Using cutting-edge AI-augmented games, George Mason researchers are transforming complex challenges into interactive learning experiences that build skills and resilience. Shima Mohebbi of the College of Engineering and Computing leads a team that created two interactive AI-powered games—*Go-Repair* and *Go-Rescue*—to train utility managers and volunteers to make critical decisions in scenarios like infrastructure repairs and hurricane disaster evacuations.

Built as part of a National Science Foundation initiative to develop simulation-based games for resilient infrastructure, the games simulate emergency scenarios and provide participants with tailored insights into their decision-making process. By using advanced algorithms, the games create a dynamic learning environment where strategies can be tested and adapted in real time.

The project's impact is already gaining recognition. The Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers named *Go-Repair* as one of four finalists in their 2024 Data Analytics and Information Systems Student Mobile App Competition.


Dialing into Fast 9-1-1 Training

George Mason's Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities is working with the Fairfax County Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) to change the way 9-1-1 operators are trained.

Training in a 9-1-1 call center is very labor-intensive, and typically an instructor will play the role of a caller and improvise call scenarios from a large scenario booklet while the trainee responds and receives feedback on their responses. Funded by a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) grant and guided by DPSC, George Mason faculty and industry partners developed a new conversational AI-assisted scenario training system that generates customizable, realistic emergency scenarios with a voice bot that mimics a wide range of typical caller behaviors.

The team, including Professor Emerita Kathy Laskey, Hemant Purohit, Lin Wells, Paul Houser, and Karina Korostelina, attended the NIST Public Safety Innovation Summit Conference in Seattle, Washington, and received a very positive response to the training system. The funding for this project was made possible through the efforts of the late Congressman Gerry Connolly, who sponsored the proposal.



 The NuScale Energy Exploration Lab at Fuse simulates reactor operations, bridging classroom learning with industry training. George Mason is home to the largest full-scale simulator in the United States where students can learn nuclear systems firsthand, work in a simulated control room environment, and gain direct exposure to NuScale's advanced technology. The simulator is funded by the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank, powered by the Virginia Department of Energy.

Peace Lab Transforms Conflict into Connection

In the Polarization and Violence Transformed (PiVoT) Peace Lab in the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, researchers and practitioners are developing methods for peace-oriented responses to the negative impacts of extreme polarization and conflict around the globe. The lab hosts a number of student- and researcher-led projects that dive deeply into polarization: its causes, its consequences, and its possible solutions.

As part of the lab's mission to develop methods of reducing or eliminating the negative impacts of polarization and to foster this transformation, lab manager and graduate student Randy Lioz is leading the Depolarization Labs and Trainers Alliance (DeLTA), which brings scholars and practitioners together to build connections and explore pathways for bridging the growing divide. Their first conference was in October 2025.

Virtual Reality Enables Greater Empathy in Dementia Care

At a conference on aging, George Mason researcher Li-Mei Chen slipped on a pair of virtual reality (VR) goggles and immediately recognized the technology's potential for nursing home staff. She imagined caregivers seeing what she saw and walking away with a new kind of understanding and empathy for their dementia patients.

Chen worked with Japanese company Jolly Good Inc. to adapt their VR technology and, with support from the Virginia Center on Aging, she launched a pilot to train certified nursing assistants (CNAs) at a Northern Virginia nursing home. The three-part program combined immersive VR scenarios with online lessons and group discussions.

Wearing the headsets allowed participants to step into the disoriented minds of dementia patients and experience their confusion, fear, and memory lapses. For many of the CNAs, the experience marked their first exposure to any dementia-specific training, and they found the scenarios immediately applicable to their work.

George Mason Accelerates Discovery into Real-World Impact

INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES
TRANSFORM IDEAS INTO SOLUTIONS

Students Turn Flood Research into Real-World Impact for Virginia Communities

Celso Ferreira, who leads the Flood Hazards Research Lab, recently redesigned the CEIE 445/645 Flood Hazard Engineering and Adaptation course. The course now focuses on working with community partners as part of a Seed Translational Research Project for George Mason's Institute for a Sustainable Earth and the National Science Foundation's Accelerating Research Translation Program.

In CEIE 445/645, undergraduate and graduate civil engineering students work together on teams to develop flood risk maps and conduct analyses to help real clients in local communities improve their flood resilience. For some communities, especially smaller counties or tribes with fewer resources or no engineers on staff, this can provide critical data to help them address areas with a higher risk of flooding.

The student teams used the new Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation models, which provided ground elevation surface values (topography), hydraulic friction values, and surface water infiltration values.


Using Ultrasound Technology to Prevent Sports Injuries


George Mason bioengineering professors Parag Chitnis and Siddhartha Sikdar have created a start-up called Myokinetics LLC with the goal of providing personalized rehabilitation programs for injured athletes.

This effort builds on more than \$5 million in funding from the U.S. Department of War for developing wearable ultrasound technologies that help rehabilitate musculoskeletal injuries through a Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs grant, and two Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium awards.

For the past 10 years, Chitnis and Sikdar have been developing their Myokinetics device "to understand not only when musculoskeletal injuries occur, but to help track the recovery process from the injury as well as prevent reinjury," said Chitnis, who codirects the Center for Advancing Systems Science and Bioengineering Innovation with Sikdar. Their device personalizes the provided treatments and rehabilitation so that users can recover in the most optimal manner.



 Researchers at the Patriot Performance Lab use the Myokinetics device to understand what's happening at the muscle level during rehabilitation and to mitigate the risk of reinjury. Project collaborators include George Mason Athletics and the College of Education and Human Development.

 George Mason's outdoor Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory, known as the "body farm," is devoted to the scientific study of forensic taphonomy and enhances the Forensic Science Program by providing extensive research, educational, and training opportunities on the Science and Technology Campus. For illustrative purposes, artificial bones are shown in this image from the Cadaver Wet Lab in the new Life Sciences and Engineering Building.





Baroni Center Launches First-Ever Government Contracting Trends and Performance Index

The Greg and Camille Baroni Center for Government Contracting in the Costello College of Business released the inaugural Government Contracting Trends and Performance Index, a first-of-its-kind analysis of the 200,000 firms providing nearly \$800 billion in products, materials, and services to the whole of the federal government.

The Baroni Center research team leveraged open-source data, comprehensive surveys of government contracting firms, and exhaustive analysis to examine three specific areas: the current structure of the federal contracting industrial base, the current trends in government contracting, and the financial performance of government contracting firms.

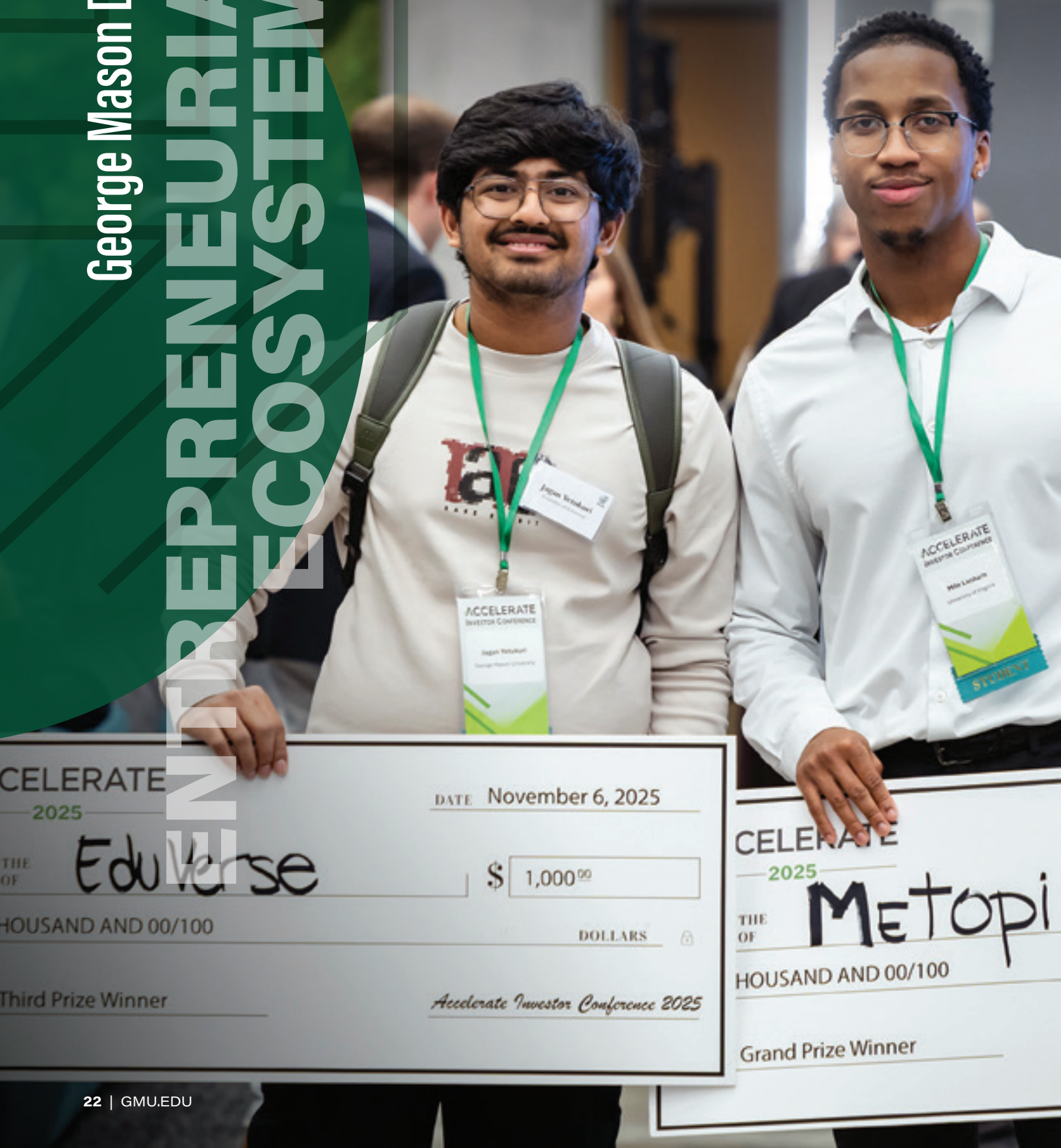
 Led by Associate Professor Jennifer N. Victor, the First-Year Democracy Lab introduces incoming students to the foundations of democratic engagement and research. The lab also facilitates connections to a network of mentors, faculty, and peers that remains long after the first year.

George Mason Drives

ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS



Mason Enterprise™ hosted its fifth annual Accelerate Investor Conference in Fuse at Mason Square in Arlington, Virginia. This year's event featured keynote speaker Shawn Purvis, MS Information Systems '99, president and CEO of Sabel Systems, as well as a fireside chat cohosted by John Newby, Virginia Bio CEO, and Jeff Conroy, managing director of Bayeux Ventures and former CEO of Embody, a successful Virginia start-up. Pictured below are George Mason computer science major Jagan Yetukuri and University of Virginia student Miles Lanham, two of the student winners of the funding competition.



Driving Innovation and Entrepreneurship Across Virginia and Beyond

AS VIRGINIA'S LARGEST UNIVERSITY-BASED BUSINESS INCUBATOR, MASON ENTERPRISE™ IS FUELING REGIONAL GROWTH AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Mason Enterprise Recognized Locally and Internationally for Supporting Start-Ups

Mason Enterprise, led by Paula Sorrell, associate vice president of innovation and economic development, was recently recognized by the Virginia Association of Counties for its Accelerate Breakfast Series, which connects entrepreneurs and investors through curated pitch opportunities that strengthen the local start-up ecosystem and attract regional investment. In addition, the International Economic Development Council recognized Mason Enterprise for its multiyear efforts advancing the region's tech innovation economy with its Innovation Ecosystem Building award, the result of creating several high-impact, tech start-up-focused programs to help diversify the regional economy.

Mason Enterprise provides small businesses and start-ups with access to no-cost counseling and training, investor networks and customers, affordable office space, and tailored programs designed to get products to market faster. Working closely with the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation and nearby economic development organizations in Prince William, Arlington, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties, and the cities of Fairfax and Manassas, the team manages the Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Center offices and the U.S. Department of War's Virginia APEX Accelerator.



MASON ENTERPRISE™
George Mason University®

» **\$2.8 billion** in bank loans, lines of credit, venture capital, angel investment, new revenue, and government contracts secured in 2024

» Growth from 300 to **2,000** supported **tech start-ups** in five years

» **1 in 6** of the businesses served by Mason Enterprise are **veteran owned**

» **58,000** entrepreneurs, small business owners, students, and faculty participated in **2,600 workshops** in 2024 (up from 19,000 attendees in 2020)


» Helped in the formation of **409 new companies** in 2024

» Helped in the creation and retention of **6,351 jobs** in 2024

Where Research, Entrepreneurship, and Global Partnerships Converge

GEORGE MASON IS LEADING BOLD INITIATIVES THAT CONNECT RESEARCH TO MARKETS, NURTURE NEW VENTURES, AND EXTEND THE UNIVERSITY'S ENTREPRENEURIAL IMPACT



 Northern Virginia and the greater Washington, D.C., region are among the nation's fastest-growing entrepreneurial destinations for investors and inventors. George Mason's investments and partnerships are a key driver in this rise.

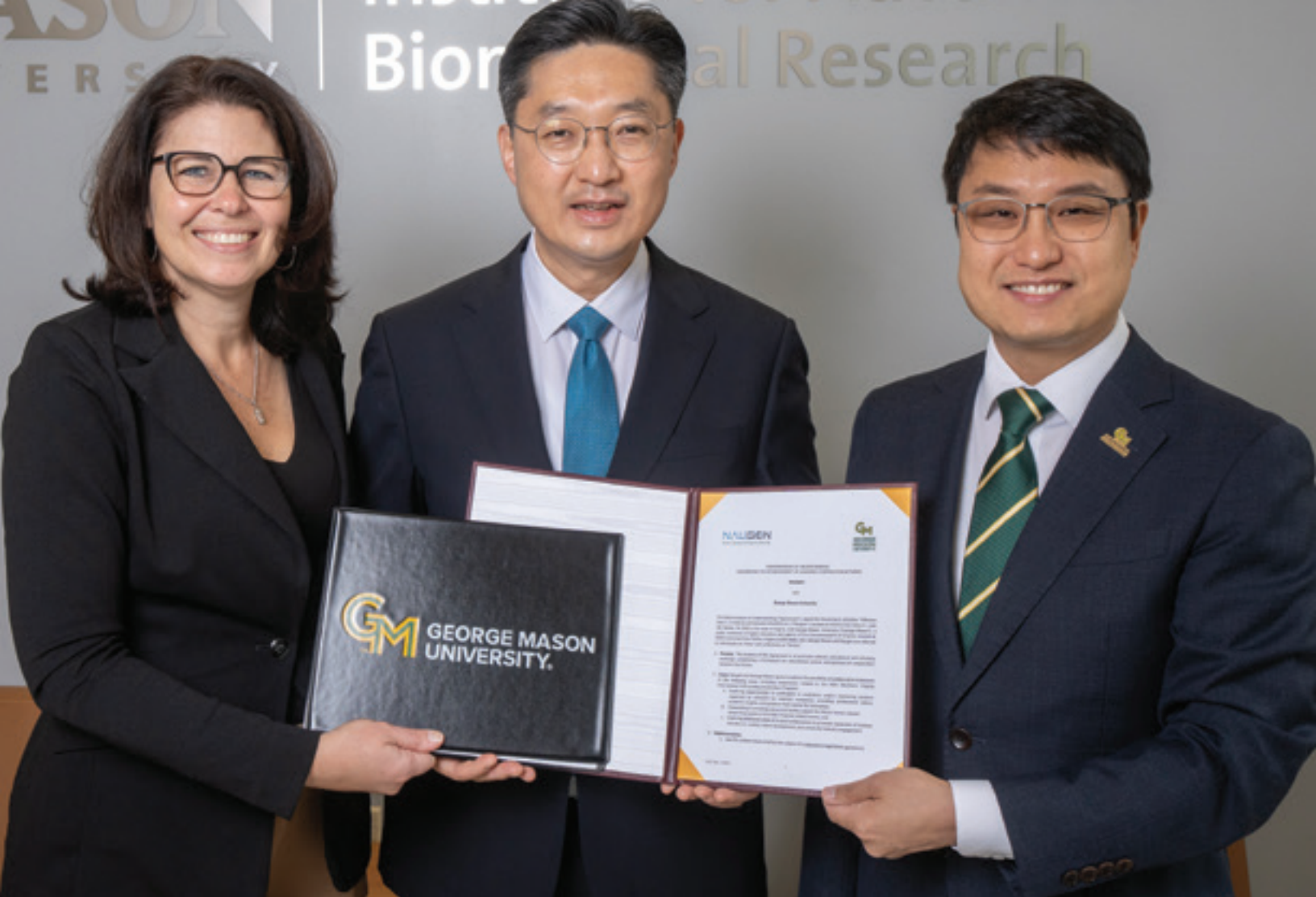
University Commercialization Initiative to Fast-Track Start-Ups

Mason Enterprise is playing a key role in Virginia's new Lab-to-Launch initiative, the first of its kind in the nation. Developed through a statewide collaboration led by George Mason and the University of Virginia, with the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation and the state's four other R1 research universities—Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, and William & Mary—the initiative is designed to double the number of start-ups that originate from Virginia's research universities and accelerate the commercialization of breakthrough technologies.

The Lab-to-Launch initiative will create Virginia's first-ever standardized Fast-Track License agreement to commercialize university research, while also expanding opportunities to connect with talent and capital from the private sector.

“Lab-to-Launch puts Virginia in a strong competitive position to connect business experience with faculty innovators, offer start-ups access to university technology with clear terms, and create a clear path to seed capital.”

—Paula Sorrell, Associate Vice President of Innovation and Economic Development



George Mason and GO Virginia Partner to Launch International Accelerator for Life Sciences Start-Ups

A new Northern Virginia International Soft-Landing Accelerator (NISA) program is helping start-ups from around the globe find pro bono guidance, connections, and lab or office spaces. Located on the Science and Technology Campus, the program focuses on companies that are developing new technologies in the life sciences.

A George Mason-managed Innovation District grant funds the program, which was made possible by a \$2.6 million investment from GO Virginia and an additional \$1.3 million from local businesses and government and higher education partners. George Mason leads NISA in partnership with Naugen, an international accelerator recognized for assisting ventures in successfully entering and growing in untapped markets.

Participants in the six-month program have access to George Mason's cutting-edge labs, research, and strong regional business and government network, which help to quickly propel ideas from lab to market. This joins EU Enrich, George Mason's program with the European Union.

 From left, Amy Adams, executive director of the Institute for Biohealth Innovation at George Mason; Jaehan Park, founder and CEO of Naugen; and Joshua Park, campus dean of Mason Korea, commemorate the global extension of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Mason Korea.

Viralbite

The first performance-based influencer platform, built specifically for restaurants.

Presented by
Emmanuel Nwokeabia
Founder

Website
www.viralbite.co

Contact
info@viralbite.co



George Mason alum Emmanuel Nwokeabia, BS Business '24, took the stage to pitch his start-up Viralbite at the 2025 Patriot Pitch Competition, showcasing how influencer-driven marketing can amplify restaurants and reshape digital engagement. His winning idea highlighted the real-world impact of George Mason's entrepreneurial ecosystem in empowering students to launch businesses that solve today's challenges.

Mason Korea Launches Center for Korean Culture and Society

With the global rise of Korean culture—from K-pop and film to food and language—Mason Korea recently launched the Center for Korean Culture and Society, its first independently operating research center.

The center will lead interdisciplinary research and education in media content, K-pop, gaming, sports, and tourism. Planned initiatives include hosting international conferences, training cultural industry professionals, fostering industry-academic partnerships, and offering Korean language and culture programs for global learners.

"As a global campus that values both scholarship and practice, Mason Korea seeks to build a platform where K-culture can be shared and co-created with the world," said Joshua Park, campus dean of Mason Korea, at the center's opening ceremony.

The center launch aligns with Korea's national strategy to position itself as a global leader in K-content. Leveraging Incheon's international gateway and collaboration with the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority's K-Con LAND project, Mason Korea aims to become a key bridge connecting Korea and the world.

MBA Students Turn Their Ideas into Companies

MAXSA Innovations founder Skip West, an adjunct faculty member at the Costello College of Business, offers the course MBA 752 Turning Ideas into Successful Companies once a year to MBA students. The concept for the course came from a similar class West took while in graduate school at Stanford University and is based on his own entrepreneurial experiences. He has cotaught the MBA version of the course with Suresh Shenoy, an engineer, senior business executive, and philanthropist.

Patcharaporn Adcharyavivit, MS Data Analytics Engineering '22, had a business concept already in mind when she signed up for West's course. Inspired by observing the processes in her family's restaurant business and her experience as a project manager in an IT start-up, she had been working on an AI-powered restaurant consultant application.

While the course is designed to help students turn their ideas into successful companies, it's also beneficial to all business students. "Even if you're developing your business conceptually, [this course] forces you to look at everything holistically," said West. "You get to see all the aspects of a business."



 George Mason University
economics professor and alum
Tyler Cowen, BS Economics '83.

Cowen Named to Inaugural TIME100 Philanthropy List

George Mason University economics professor and alum Tyler Cowen, BS Economics '83, has been named one of *TIME* magazine's 100 most influential people in philanthropy.

Cowen is being recognized for his leadership of Emergent Ventures, a fellowship and grant program housed at George Mason's Mercatus Center, that backs entrepreneurial thinkers and doers with extraordinary potential. Since its launch, Emergent Ventures has funded more than 1,000 individuals around the world who are advancing work across a wide array of fields, including science, policy, and journalism.

The inaugural TIME100 Philanthropy list recognizes 100 individuals who are reimagining the ways giving can drive meaningful change. Philanthropists from 28 countries made the list.

WISE Program Empowers Fairfax County Entrepreneurs

The Workforce Innovation Success through Entrepreneurship (WISE) program, spearheaded by the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship within the Costello College of Business, launched in August at the W.I.S.H. Center/Hybla Valley Community Center in Alexandria, Virginia. This marked a significant milestone in our effort to advance entrepreneurship and workforce development among aspiring entrepreneurs in Fairfax County. The program is free of charge for county residents and is made possible through a strategic partnership with Melwood Community Services, the W.I.S.H. Center, and Fairfax County Government.

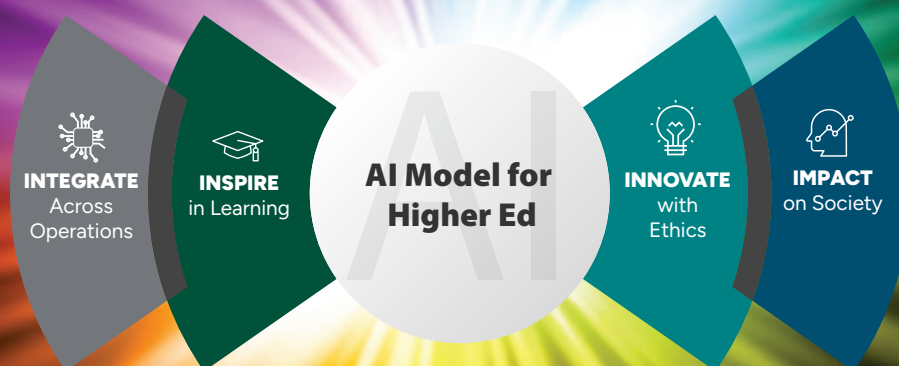
Over a nine-month period, participants are taken through an incubator-style program that includes entrepreneurship training, mentoring, and consulting. During the consulting phase, George Mason students are paired with WISE program participants. This experiential learning opportunity allows students to develop their own entrepreneurial mindsets while honing their consulting skills as they produce actionable deliverables that enable participants to launch their small business ventures.

Mentors Help Entrepreneurs Turn Ideas into Impact

TJ Master and Elizabeth Pyle are mentors with the Virginia Small Business Development Center's Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program (ICAP). Their job is helping early stage entrepreneurs transform their visions into a viable business strategy. For both Master and Pyle, mentoring is more than advising—it's about meeting founders where they are, asking tough questions, and helping them navigate the uncertain early stages of growth.

Master helped lead a global communications company from the start-up phase to more than \$100 million in annual revenue across six countries—culminating in a NASDAQ initial public offering. Pyle has spent more than two decades working with start-ups and growth-stage companies in tech and health care, supporting founders as they turn ideas into sustainable businesses. Through ICAP, Virginia-based founders have access to free resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities designed to turn great ideas into market-ready ventures.

Powered By



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY IS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE AI. AS AI TRANSFORMS EVERY INDUSTRY, GEORGE MASON IS PREPARING STUDENTS TO LEAD AND SPEARHEAD RESEARCH THAT SOLVES REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS

Across the university, our researchers are applying AI to predict social isolation among caregivers, detect bruising on diverse skin tones, improve vision diagnostics, translate lesser-known languages, and strengthen workplace safety. These projects represent only a fraction of the innovation taking place at George Mason.

As Virginia's largest and most diverse public university, George Mason is building an AI ecosystem that advances education, research, workforce development, and community impact.

INTEGRATE INSPIRE

Integrating AI: Advancing Operations with PatriotAI

PatriotAI, George Mason's enterprise AI platform built with Microsoft and Cloudforce, provides secure access to a suite of tools designed to enhance learning and campus life. The platform includes a conversational assistant for general questions, a document analysis tool, a resource connector for students facing food insecurity, a study and research assistant that helps students understand course materials, and a course design tool that supports faculty. These resources are supported by guiding principles and decision-making frameworks for students, faculty, and staff that outline responsible and ethical AI use across the university.

Inspiring with AI: Preparing Students for the Workforce

George Mason is developing programs that prepare students for AI-enhanced careers in critical sectors like cybersecurity, public health, and government. In the classroom, the university has launched a new undergraduate core course for all students called AI4All: Understanding and Building Artificial Intelligence, the first-in-the-state master of science in AI, an ethics and AI minor for undergraduates of all majors, a graduate certificate in responsible AI, and graduate-level courses that advance foundational AI technologies and their integration across disciplines. George Mason also hosts programs that prepare high school students to explore machine learning, problem-solving, and real-world applications of AI with partners like Deloitte and NABA. New academies are also in development for the 2026–27 academic year with partners like Google and Amazon Web Services. Faculty across disciplines are integrating AI into their teaching to help students build practical, future-ready skills.



LEARN MORE
gmu.edu/AI

Innovating with AI: Embracing AI in Research for Grand Solutions

George Mason researchers are building unique solutions that address urgent global and community needs. They're using AI to identify human trafficking hot spots, fight scams targeting older adults, support dementia care, meet early elementary education needs for diverse learners, and more. This work integrates several areas across the university's Grand Challenge Initiative.

Impacting with AI: AI's Evolving Role Across Industries

George Mason and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia held an inaugural AI in Education for Virginia Summit bringing together K-12, higher education, government, and industry leaders to discuss integrating AI responsibly in Virginia education. The summit focused on ethics, policy, and workforce readiness, and resulted in a guide for implementation.

The AI-in-Gov Council bridges industry, academia, and government to provide thought leadership on AI approaches, governance, technologies, and guardrails in public-sector AI. Through coordinated programming, publications, and joint research, the council tracks and disseminates information about federal AI activities and, leveraging George Mason's national leadership in AI and tech governance, strengthens collaborations and delivers value to government and the broader AI-in-Gov community.

Faculty members also serve on national task forces that guide AI policy and governance. Jamil N. Jaffer, the founder and executive director of the National Security Institute (NSI) at George Mason's Antonin Scalia Law School, and NSI Fellow Zach Graves, were appointed to the Virginia Artificial Intelligence Task Force, which will work with legislators to regulate rapidly advancing AI technology.

INNOVATE IMPACT

AI²Nexus: George Mason's University-Wide Approach

As a model for universities, AI²Nexus is based on four key principles: Integrating AI to transform education, research, and operations; Inspiring with AI to advance higher education and learning for the future workforce; Innovating with AI to lead in responsible AI-enabled discovery and advancements across disciplines; and Impacting with AI to drive partnerships and community engagement for societal adoption and change.

George Mason Drives

**ECONOMIC
GROWTH**

Economic Impact of George Mason

\$4 BILLION+

Economic impact across Virginia
per year

\$2 BILLION

Gross state product per year

\$42 MILLION

Contributed in state tax revenue
from employees, vendors,
and students

Building a Future Alongside Virginia Communities

SHAPING VIRGINIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

A New Innovation District Shines Bright

The Innovation District, led by George Mason in partnership with Prince William County and the City of Manassas, accelerates scientific advancement, bolsters start-ups and established employers, and creates high-quality jobs. It is the first Innovation District in Northern Virginia and is powered by a \$2.6 million grant from GO Virginia, with an additional \$1.3 million contributed by area businesses. The Innovation District serves a community that includes more than 15,000 students at George Mason's Science and Technology Campus (SciTech Campus) and Northern Virginia Community College.

"The Innovation District will connect education, research, and industry, advancing innovation and improvements across the region while also giving students opportunities that extend beyond the classroom for real-world impact," said Amy Adams, executive director of George Mason's Institute for Biohealth Innovation at the SciTech Campus.

In Jeff Selingo's *Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You*, George Mason is featured for strong job prospects after graduation and for broad accessibility, one of 75 universities so recognized.





📷 In the Kinesiology Lab in the Life Sciences and Engineering Building, students have a variety of equipment to learn from as they pursue their studies.

SciTech Campus Grows with a Vision for Integrated Learning and Community Living

The \$75 million Life Sciences and Engineering Building and expanded SciTech Campus position George Mason to attract research enterprises and fuel economic activity in Prince William County. The university's 2050 plan calls for a community-integrated campus in Manassas, including purchasing 10 two- and three-bedroom units at Innovation Town Center to rent at below-market rates to faculty and staff. More than 2,300 students enrolled in classes at the SciTech Campus for fall 2025.

"The Life Sciences and Engineering Building marks a major state investment in our outstanding George Mason faculty to educate and inspire our students—Virginia's next generation of inspirational leaders, researchers, innovators, and problem solvers."

—President Gregory Washington



Fuse at Mason Square Sparks Collaboration

After fully opening in fall 2025, Fuse now anchors the Arlington Innovation Corridor that runs from Rosslyn to Ballston. Fuse, a unique public-private partnership, is home

to research and economic opportunities in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, power and energy, next generation communications, nuclear small reactor control systems, and data center engineering. It includes the Energy Exploration (E2) Center, the nation's largest simulator of a small modular nuclear reactor control room, developed by NuScale Power. Tech industry tenants, which include Cybastion, Oasis Hill, Corvex, and JSI Telecom, work alongside George Mason researchers and students to drive innovation and bring ideas to market. The building offers cutting-edge labs and collaboration space for entrepreneurs, researchers, and industry, serving as the university's bold new home for innovation, technology, and collaboration. With Fuse, every college and school at George Mason now has a presence at Mason Square, offering new opportunities to work together on digital innovations.

STATE INVESTMENTS


» **\$700,000** for Virginia's Small Business Development Centers, which are operated through a cooperative agreement with Mason Enterprise™

» **\$7.43 million** in education and general funds to maintain affordability

» **\$3 million** for operating support

» **\$1.98 million** in financial aid assistance; additional funding to support the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program



 President Gregory Washington addressed attendees at the Fuse Grand Celebration, where guests were invited to see demonstrations of cutting-edge research and innovation.



 The west campus planning project focuses on reimagining that portion of the Fairfax Campus to create a unified space that fosters engagement, collaboration, and community while supporting transformational learning experiences.

George Mason Reimagines Fairfax Campus to Build a Connected and Vibrant Community

George Mason is envisioning the future of the western portion of the Fairfax Campus, engaging stakeholders and potential partners from business, government, leadership, athletics, real estate, and campus communities as part of its 2050 plan. This area of the Fairfax Campus provides opportunities for development that foster robust community partnerships as well as reimagined spaces for recreation and student-athlete success.

Economic Driver and Employer

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

George Mason and Fairfax City Forge a Partnership to Connect Students and Businesses

A landmark partnership with Fairfax City Economic Development aligns workforce pathways, innovation, and real-world student engagement. By connecting students, businesses, and city government through the Costello College of Business's centers of excellence, the partnership serves as a model for effective public-academic collaboration.

Industry Leaders Share Insights with Honors College Students

The Honors College hosted Professional Development Roundtables, partnering with health care leaders from Inova, Novant Health, CareFirst, and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield; financial services leaders from EagleBank, Bank of America, Bluestone Investment Partners, Andersen, Chevy Chase Trust, and more; and performing arts leaders from Signature Theatre and Arena Stage.

An Ongoing Mission to Provide the Fullest Possible Accounting for American Personnel Lost in Foreign Conflicts

Since 2020, the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media has partnered with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to research cases of unaccounted-for American service members from past conflicts.



At this year's Outstanding Achievement Awards event, John Crocker received a Presidential Citation Award for saving a colleague's life. This event celebrates the hard work, dedication, and achievements of George Mason's faculty and staff in support of the university's values and mission. Crocker is a chemical safety manager with Risk, Safety, and Resilience.

Washington Business Journal ranks George Mason as the second largest four-year public university in the greater Washington, D.C., region. With more than 10,000 employees and 40,748 students, George Mason is a major employer and economic driver for Northern Virginia.

George Mason Drives

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



 This year, ACCESS Academy hosted an Artificial Intelligence Summer Camp for rising 9th through 12th graders at Fuse at Mason Square in Arlington.

George Mason Partners with Virginia Leaders to Open Two Lab Schools

HIGHLIGHTING HOW ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SHAPES FUTURE CAREERS

ACCESS Academy Reimagines How Students Prepare for College


The Accelerated College and Employability Skills (ACCESS) Academy welcomed its first cohort this fall. Developed in partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and Loudoun County Public Schools, ACCESS Academy reimagines how students can prepare for college, careers, and civic life in a rapidly evolving world. The program supports students who have limited exposure to higher education information, career pathways, or professional networks.

Students will engage in experiential learning as an integrated continuum from high school to higher education and the workforce. Students will be dual-enrolled in an asynchronous information technology course through NOVA Online this spring, then continue on with dual-enrollment courses in 11th grade in college composition, precalculus, and physics, along with data science and database management training. The program coursework ends with a senior design capstone.

DSCA Lab School Fosters Data Literacy and Showcases the Latest STEM Innovations

The Shenandoah Valley Rural Regional College Partnership Laboratory School for Data Science, Computing, and Applications (DSCA Lab School) officially opened in fall 2025. It is a collaborative partnership between George Mason University and Frederick County Public Schools, as well as six rural and rural-fringe school districts in the Shenandoah Valley including Clarke, Fauquier, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren counties; Winchester Public Schools; Mountain Vista Governor's School; and Laurel Ridge Community College.

The DSCA Lab School supports 10th- through 12th-grade students with academic programming in data science and computing. Through research opportunities, apprenticeships and internships, experiential and project-based learning, certifications, and microcredentials in data analytics, the lab school offers opportunities to earn an associate's degree and college credits, as well as work-based learning.

 From left, George Mason Mathematical Sciences Professor and DSCA Lab School lead/PI Padhu Seshaiyer, College of Science Dean Cody Edwards, data science teacher Dominik Napenas, and College of Science Chief Business Officer Meghan St. George (far right) pose with DSCA Lab School students during the school's ribbon-cutting ceremony.





 Eager candidates lined up at George Mason's 2025 Spring Career Fair. Top career sectors for George Mason graduates are education, government and military, technology, health care, and consulting. Recent graduates were hired by companies that include Amazon, CGI, Leidos, Booz Allen Hamilton, Mayo Clinic, IBM, Inova, Peraton, SAIC, Prince William County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, the U.S. State Department, IBM, Accenture, and Kearney and Company.

Where Education Meets Impact

WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY TURNS LEARNING INTO LIFELONG ACHIEVEMENT

University Career Services Connects Students to Success

At George Mason, students do more than grow and learn—they launch careers and futures. University Career Services connects students with employers, scholarships, and mentorships, and allows students to turn internships into opportunities, ideas into impact, and classroom lessons into real-world achievements. University Career Services supports more than 20,000 students each year through more than 140 programs, more than 400 campus partners, and more than 650 recruiting employers, promoting more than 100,000 jobs and internships annually.

This success hasn't gone unnoticed. University Career Services received a \$40,000 Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP) subaward to continue the development and expansion of internship programs.



Informing Global Education-to-Career Pathways

Before an audience of ministers, ambassadors, educators, and global innovation leaders, Ingrid Guerra-López, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, delivered a keynote address that called for a bold, system-wide transformation of K-12 education. The Innovation Africa 2025 summit, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, convened senior policymakers and international partners to tackle the most pressing challenges in education and skills development across the continent. Guerra-López's address argued that global transformation begins with local action—and that George Mason is committed to walking alongside the leaders shaping that future.

George Mason's teacher preparation programs are among the master's degree programs with the most graduates at the university. In 2025, 597 students received master of education degrees. Those same graduates go on to shape education in Northern Virginia, with more than half of the region's school administrators being George Mason graduates.



The Class of 2024

» 76% of graduates reported they had a job related to their career goals.

» 85% were employed in the Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland region.

» 73% of in-state and 30% of out-of-state George Mason graduates launch their careers in Virginia.

Building Careers Through Experience

STUDENTS TAKE WHAT THEY LEARN AND APPLY IT IN THE WORKPLACE—GAINING THE PRACTICAL INSIGHT THAT TURNS AMBITION INTO ACHIEVEMENT



Nasrin Ali


Computer science major and Honors College student Nasrin Ali has completed three internships with Microsoft. Her experiences, including roles on the Xbox team as a product manager and software engineer, have been pivotal in shaping her career aspirations. Ali credits these internships with providing clarity, valuable connections, and hands-on experience in software development. She is just one example of how George Mason's career readiness programs and strong industry partnerships successfully prepare students for technology careers.



Jordan Edlich

As a child growing up in Winchester, Virginia, Jordan Edlich would often visit Blandy Experimental Farm. Now a graduate student in environmental science and policy at George Mason, Edlich spent the summer of 2025 interning at the farm, which is also the State Arboretum of Virginia, cataloging native plants. One of Edlich's main goals for their master's research is to create a local floristic survey to help the rehabilitation and revitalization of native plants in Northern Virginia.



 Nearly 400 students participated in the 2025 Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program, which provides hands-on research opportunities working with professors and graduate students. Several high school students, like those pictured here, worked in the Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine on the SciTech Campus as part of this program.

PATRIOTS AT WORK

GEORGE MASON ALUMNI LEAD IN THEIR FIELDS,
SERVE IN PUBLIC OFFICE, START COMPANIES,
AND HELP TRAIN FUTURE LEADERS



Saddam Azlan Salim, BS Public Administration '12, MPA '15, is Alumnus of the Year. While growing up in Bangladesh, Salim and his family experienced severe drought followed by the flood of 1998, the country's most extreme and long-lasting flood of the century. His family came to the United States when he was 10. After experiencing homelessness shortly after moving to the United States, his family settled in Fairfax County, Virginia, where Salim attended Falls Church High School and then George Mason. He now works in federal financial management and consulting. In November 2023, he was elected to the Virginia Senate and now represents the 37th District.



Tiffany H. Bates, JD '18, has been selected to serve as a clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas during the 2026 term. The prestigious appointment is one of the highest honors in the legal profession and reflects both Bates's exceptional legal acumen and the growing national reputation of Antonin Scalia Law School's alumni. Bates currently serves as an associate at boutique law firm Consovoy McCarthy PLLC, where she focuses on constitutional law, administrative law, and commercial litigation. Prior to joining the firm, she clerked for the Honorable Kyle Duncan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.




U.S. Representative **Riley Moore**, BA Government and International Politics '05, is the new representative from West Virginia and the third George Mason alum to hold a seat in the U.S. Congress. Moore's academic journey wasn't straightforward—he first went through trade school and spent time working as a welder, which helped shape his understanding of skilled labor and industry. After graduating from George Mason, Moore interned on Capitol Hill, eventually securing a job in public service. He worked on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and spent time in the defense industry before running for office. Previously he served in the West Virginia House of Delegates and as state treasurer.



Gina S. Brown, PhD Nursing '99, has demonstrated tenacity and resolve throughout her career. While earning her PhD at George Mason, she balanced a demanding academic schedule with a full-time job and raising a young family. In 2025, Brown returned to her undergraduate alma mater, Oakwood University, to take on a historic new role: the first female president of the institution. She has held several notable positions, including leadership roles and faculty appointments at Washington Adventist University, Loma Linda University in California, and Howard University. At Howard, she served as dean of the college of nursing and allied health sciences, leading its 1,500 students and 100 faculty.



Ali Reza Manouchehri, BA Philosophy '99, is co-founder and chief executive officer of MetroStar, a digital transformation company serving government agencies and the private sector. He served as the Winter Commencement speaker in December 2025. He launched MetroStar in 1999 from his George Mason residence hall room while still a student. The company now has a team of more than 500 engineers, designers, and innovators who assist clients in staying abreast of the latest technologies to modernize operations. Manouchehri has been a judge at Mason Enterprise's Accelerator Investor Conference and is an advisory board member for the Costello College of Business Baroni Center for Government Contracting.

 **Soukaina Amniouel**, MS Bioinformatics and Computational Biology '20, PhD '24, is a researcher at the National Institutes of Health. Her work focuses on the discovery or improvement of drug therapies for both cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Of the university's more than **250,000 alumni**, almost **two-thirds** stay in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

PATRIOTS UNITED. **TOGETHER** WE THRIVE.

George Mason Athletics launched a five-year strategic plan, Patriots United. Together We Thrive. Led by Marvin Lewis, the plan aims to strengthen student-athlete experiences, elevate competitiveness, and build community engagement.

Central to the strategy is positioning men's and women's basketball as flagship programs to raise regional and national visibility, while upgrading facilities like EagleBank Arena. The plan highlights athletics as a driver of community pride, enrollment growth, and national recognition, aiming to foster a championship culture and long-term success.



MASON NOW POWER THE POSSIBLE

The new Athletics strategic plan sets a \$35 million fundraising goal through the Mason Now: Power the Possible campaign, with priorities that include a new basketball and academic performance center, enhanced wellness and nutrition services, career and leadership development programs, and support for innovation and recruitment initiatives.

"I believe athletics is the front porch of this university, but our job is to unite the community."

—**Marvin Lewis**, Assistant Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics



FROM GRIT TO GREATNESS

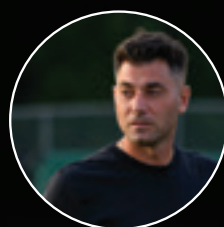
GEORGE MASON'S CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR

In a record-breaking year for George Mason Athletics, the Patriots delivered five A-10 Conference titles—the highest single-school year total in program history—and had the most successful run since joining the league.

- » **MEN'S BASKETBALL:** first regular season title in program history
- » **MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD:** first championship since 2019
- » **MEN'S SOCCER:** first regular season title in program history
- » **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL:** first tournament championship in program history and first NCAA Tournament appearance
- » **WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD:** first championship since 2014

George Mason student-athletes average a **3.37 GPA** and **95%** graduation rate across all sports.

COACHES LEAD THE CHARGE



A-10 Coach of the Year

Rich Costanzo
Head Coach, Men's Soccer



A-10 Coach of the Year

Tony Skinn
Head Coach, Men's Basketball



Finalist, Kathy Delaney-Smith Mid-Major Coach of the Year

Virginia Sports Information Directors Association (VaSID) All-State Coach of the Year

Vanessa Blair-Lewis
Head Coach, Women's Basketball



VaSID University Division Indoor Track and Field All-State Coach of the Year

Andrew Gerard
Head Coach, Women's Indoor Track and Field


Peter N. Stearns Provost Scholar Athletes

George Mason honored a record 78 student-athletes who earned a GPA of 3.75 or better, the highest number in the program's 17-year history. This recognition spotlights students who balance academic excellence and athletic competition, and the university's support of student success.



George Mason Drives

COMMUNITIES FORWARD

 George Mason dance students performed at the 2025 ARTS by George! festivities. This event raised more than \$289,000 for student scholarships. The total funds raised through ARTS by George! is more than \$4.6 million since its inception in 2006.

Opening the Doors Through Culture and Competition

EACH SEASON, THOUSANDS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIANS EXPERIENCE THE ENERGY, EXCELLENCE, AND SPIRIT THAT DEFINE OUR UNIVERSITY

The Arts as a Community Connector

George Mason's cultural venues transform education into shared experiences. From the Center for the Arts to the Hylton Performing Arts Center—which celebrated its landmark 15th anniversary this past year—our cultural centers offer rich programming that enhances the entire region. World-class music, theater, and dance, as well as innovative programming, bring people together to create moments of shared wonder and discovery.



Give Voice to Emerging Talent, New Discoveries, and Great Artists

The College of Visual and Performing Arts launched the Give Voice Initiative in February 2025, a \$35 million fundraising effort to modernize the Center for the Arts (CFA). Since opening in 1990, CFA has welcomed 6.5 million patrons and supported generations of student artists, some now performing on Broadway. The venue has hosted Grammy-, Tony-, Emmy-, and Academy Award-winning artists alongside U.S. presidents.

The modernization includes major technological and acoustical upgrades, improved accessibility and sightlines, expanded teaching and rehearsal spaces, and a remodeled lobby. Upon completion, CFA will become the Barry Dewberry and Arlene Evans Center for the Arts in recognition of their \$10 million lead gift. Give Voice has raised nearly \$18 million toward its goal, including significant support from the Peterson Family Foundation.

ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE PODCAST



STORY SPOTLIGHT

President Gregory Washington and College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean Rick Davis explored the phenomenon of building community through the arts on an *Access to Excellence* podcast episode. Listen to how artistic expression creates connections that transcend traditional academic boundaries.



LISTEN NOW »



George Mason women's basketball won the Atlantic 10 Championship for the first time in program history in 2024-25, giving them their first NCAA Tournament berth.

Marvin Lewis to Continue Leading George Mason Athletics Through 2030

Marvin Lewis, assistant vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics, has signed a two-year contract extension, securing his leadership through the 2029-30 academic year. Since arriving at the university in July 2023, Lewis has ushered in a transformative era for George Mason Athletics with historic results and a new strategic plan. The 2024-25 season was one of the most successful in university history with the Patriots claiming five Atlantic 10 Conference championships—in men's soccer, men's basketball, women's basketball, women's indoor track and field, and men's outdoor track and field. This marks the most titles in a single season since joining the A-10 and the program's best overall performance since the 1994-95 season.

George Mason Extends Contracts for Tony Skinn and Vanessa Blair-Lewis

George Mason has reaffirmed its commitment to excellence in intercollegiate athletics by extending the contracts of men's basketball Head Coach Tony Skinn, BA Communication '06, and women's basketball Head Coach Vanessa Blair-Lewis. Skinn, a George Mason alum and the 2025 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year, will continue to lead the men's program through the 2029-30 season, guiding the Patriots with a vision rooted in competitiveness, character, and community pride. Blair-Lewis, whose contract now extends through 2028-29, has revitalized the women's basketball program with a focus on culture, player development, and academic achievement, while serving as a respected ambassador for the university. Together, Skinn and Blair-Lewis embody George Mason's dedication to sustained success, leadership, and the advancement of George Mason Athletics on and off the court.

George Mason Patriots Intercollegiate Athletics

- » 22 NCAA Division I sports teams, 500+ student-athletes
- » Supported by 18 head coaches and 41 assistant coaches

Beep Baseball Program

In October 2025, Mason Recreation hosted a Learn to Play clinic for beep baseball, a sport specifically designed for blind or visually impaired players.

The event was in partnership with the National Beep Baseball Association and MindsEye Radio, which provided live commentary for the games. The clinic was open to blind or visually impaired individuals, their families, and local volunteers who wanted to learn about and support the sport. Philanthropist Velma Berkey originated the idea for the program and her gift to the university helped bring this program to life at George Mason.

20th Anniversary of a Historic Achievement

In December, the men's basketball team hosted a 20th anniversary commemoration of its historic run to the 2006 NCAA Final Four. During the halftime ceremony at a game against former conference rival Old Dominion University, the program recognized former Head Coach Jim Larrañaga with a banner that will permanently hang from the arena rafters. Members of the 2006 Final Four team joined him, creating a special moment for the George Mason community to relive one of the most significant chapters in the basketball program's history.



 John Brennan IV is part of the Green Machine, George Mason's pep band and performing arts ensemble that connects arts and athletics across campus and community. This year, the Green Machine performed at more than 100 events on and off campus, engaging with fans and families across the region. The group now has a dedicated practice space in the Activities Building, which opened this year on the Fairfax Campus.

Responsible Stewards and Generous Neighbors

THESE GLOBAL CONNECTIONS AND PUBLIC EVENTS ENRICH OUR INTERNATIONAL CAMPUSES WHILE ALSO STRENGTHENING TIES TO VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITIES


Campus Events That Offer Global Perspectives


From hosting school speakers from around the globe, to the International Week Parade, to student-run activities like Holi Moli, George Mason's community extends far beyond Northern Virginia to build bridges between cultures and prepare global citizens. At Mason Korea, students participated in a Young Trilateral Leaders workshop hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, joining American, Korean, and Japanese peers in a leadership program that fosters international understanding and collaboration.

Caring for Our Community

The Patriot Packout Free Store exemplifies George Mason's commitment to being a good and responsible neighbor. This event redistributes donated goods from departing students to reduce waste while meeting community needs—a practical demonstration of circular economy principles that benefits both the environment and our community. In 2025, the initiative collected and redistributed 17,168 pounds of donations, with 11,560 pounds of donations going to Patriots and George Mason's on-campus resources.

The University Life Gives Back initiative mobilizes the entire George Mason community into action. This year, 150 staff members participated in local service projects ranging from community gardening projects with Arlington County Parks and Recreation to animal shelter support at the Animal Welfare League and Fairfax Humane Society. These events are part of George Mason's culture of giving back, which extends beyond the classroom and into every corner of the communities we call home.

A photograph of three people standing in front of a large screen. On the left is a man with a beard and sunglasses on his head, wearing a dark shirt. In the center is a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark blazer. On the right is a man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie. The screen behind them displays the M-VETS logo and the text "M-VETS" in large letters. To the left of the photo, there is a camera icon and a text block.


 The Mason Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic (M-VETS) at Antonin Scalia Law School assists veterans, service members, and their dependents with military, veteran, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs administrative matters. Pictured from left, M-VETS client Richard Fahlman, Student Advisor Samantha Hargis, and M-VETS Director Timothy M. MacArthur.



Where Campus Meets Canvas

George Mason campuses are places to explore and home to sculptures, murals, and artwork that rival those found in prestigious art museums. Mason Exhibitions manages and curates seven gallery spaces across three campuses and the Potomac Science Center in Virginia. These include the Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Fenwick Gallery at Fenwick Library, and the Gillespie Gallery of Art on the Fairfax Campus, as well as the Buchanan Partners Art Gallery in the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the SciTech Campus. Founders Hall Gallery is inside Van Metre Hall at Mason Square, and Mason Exhibitions Arlington is located a short distance from the campus.

The public art at George Mason transforms common spaces into cultural landmarks and reinforces the university's identity as a place where a variety of ideas and disciplines converge. Along with enhancing the aesthetic appeal of George Mason's campuses, the art also promotes intellectual curiosity, provides experiential learning, and creates an accessible way to engage with art outside traditional museums.

 Murals at Mason commissioned a mural from School of Art alum Federico "MasPaz" Frum, BA Art and Visual Technology '05, that conveys interconnectedness and reciprocity between humans, animals, and the natural world. Frum is a Colombian-born multidisciplinary artist known for his distinctive street murals that explore topics of earth preservation and Indigenous peoples.



 Community members take part in a yoga class on the Mason Square Plaza—one of many events transforming the space into a vibrant gathering place for both the Arlington community and the campus. The plaza activation initiative is part of a broader effort to use George Mason's spaces to foster connection, engagement, and a shared sense of community.

Community-Based Learning Helps Students Receive Practical Skills While Connecting with Local Partners

George Mason continues to expand community engagement course designations, deepening the integration of academic learning with community service. This year's Engage Series worked with the community to advance information literacy, combat misinformation, and support civic engagement with workshops, panels, roundtables, volunteer opportunities, and research pathways.

Veterans and the Arts Initiative Creates a Thriving Creative Community for Military Families

Since 2014, the Veterans and the Arts Initiative at George Mason has reached more than 20,000 military-connected community members by offering everything from hands-on workshops to art exhibitions and concerts—all designed with veterans, servicemembers, military family members, and military caregivers in mind.

The initiative began as a modest effort to thank veterans each Veterans Day by providing a creative outlet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the SciTech Campus. It's now a thriving hub where art meets community and provides a much-needed space for military-connected individuals.

Peace Week Highlights George Mason's Commitment to Community

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution fall 2025 Peace Week was themed "Bridging Peacebuilding, Development, and Security." Launched in fall 2020, this semiannual series drew thousands of participants to more than 30 in-person and virtual events including "From Hiroshima to Hope: A Call for a Nuclear Arms-Free World," which marked the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and explored the legacy of nuclear weapons and the enduring power of peace. The program also featured the Hiroshima Children's Drawings and the acclaimed documentary *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard*.

Lectures and Guest Presentations to External Community Organizations

Mason Speakers connects community groups and businesses with George Mason expertise, fostering dialogue and sharing knowledge on issues that matter to the region. The program includes nearly 100 professors, researchers, and administrators who volunteer their time to give lectures and presentations. Last year, 79 speakers addressed 218 topics, engaging with more than 1,500 community members across the region.



Miche Hodges performs at Jazz4Justice, a collaborative partnership with the legal community, the business community, the music community, and universities. Proceeds from the evening benefit Legal Services of Northern Virginia to continue its mission of service to the Northern Virginia community as well as providing financial support for the George Mason Jazz Studies Program for scholarships, trips, recordings and student projects. Photo provided by Alene Boghosian



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