

Northern Virginia's Business Leaders Stand United in Support of George Mason University

As of 7/28/2025

George Mason University has long been one of Northern Virginia's greatest economic assets due to its transformative impact on the region and significant role in driving talent, research, and economic growth. As the largest public university in the Commonwealth, Mason plays a vital role in preparing the workforce that powers our region's economy from tech and cybersecurity to healthcare, law, public policy, and education. Mason is more than a university — it fuels Northern Virginia's talent engine, with academic programs tailored to the region's evolving industry needs.

This statement reflects our shared commitment to the future of a university that is delivering what Virginia needs most — a workforce ready to succeed in today's economy and lead in tomorrow's industries. The Northern Virginia business community is united in our message: ***We strongly support George Mason University and the strategic direction that Mason's president, Dr. Gregory Washington, has set for the university as a preeminent educational institution that delivers the region's workforce. Simply stated, Mason is advancing our regional future.***

Mason Fuels Our Economy and Workforce

Mason is a cornerstone of Northern Virginia's economy. Over 80% of its graduates establish roots in Northern Virginia and contribute the skills and leadership our region relies on across key industries. Mason's student body is talented, creative, driven, diverse in thought, and aligned with the needs of today's economy and future-focused industries.

Mason, A Proven Leader Delivering Results

Over the past 10 years, through successive leaders, including the leadership being provided by the current university president, Dr. Washington, Mason has expanded research capacity, deepened industry partnerships, and created more pathways to opportunity for students from all backgrounds. It has earned national recognition as a leading R-1 research institution known for free inquiry and innovation, inclusive excellence, real-world learning, and workforce readiness. As Mason's national profile rises, so does Virginia's ability to attract, develop, and retain top talent.

It is critical to maintain and accelerate the positive momentum of a key regional and Commonwealth asset, one that is fueling the Northern Virginia talent pipeline. The current times in our region require an accelerated partnership between Mason and private industry.

A Call to Action: Support What's Working

We call on the Mason Board of Visitors to reaffirm its support for Mason as a critical regional asset and for Dr. Washington's strategic vision for the university.

A thriving George Mason University with leadership stability is crucial to the success of Northern Virginia, and we strongly believe that Mason is on the right path to lead the region forward. We invite other chambers of commerce, associations, and business organizations across the Commonwealth to join us in supporting George Mason University and its essential role in delivering our workforce and expanding our economy.

Signed,

Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC)

Northern Virginia Chamber (NVC)

Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Prince William Chamber of Commerce

Arlington Chamber of Commerce

