The Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area: 2018 Overview

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Who We Are

The Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area (“The Consortium”) consists of seventeen (17) colleges and universities in the District of Columbia and contiguous counties in Maryland and Virginia that serve nearly 290,000 students. The table and map below provides a list and location of the Consortium members. Several member universities also have secondary locations across the metropolitan area. (Additional information is provided in Appendix A).

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<th>District of Columbia</th>
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<td>American University</td>
<td>Howard University</td>
<td>Montgomery College</td>
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<td>The Catholic University of America</td>
<td>National Defense University</td>
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<td>Gallaudet University</td>
<td>Trinity Washington University</td>
<td>Prince George’s Community College</td>
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(Additional information is provided in Appendix A).
As a higher education partnership, the Consortium is one of the world’s foremost educational collaboratives, and is a powerful economic force in the region. For example, the Consortium members and their affiliated hospitals and physician groups represent the largest single non-governmental employment sector in the District, and one of the largest in the region. Consortium colleges and universities represent every sector of nonprofit higher education, creating strength through its diversity of institutions. The global reputation and diversity of the institutions enables them to attract students, faculty, and staff not only from the metropolitan region, but also from every state in the United States as well as from hundreds of countries globally.

The Consortium is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of the presidents of the member institutions. The current board chair (2017-2019) is President John Garvey of The Catholic University of America. The Consortium provides a unified voice on behalf of its members to local and regional governments, as well as to business/industry and other organizations by serving as a single point of contact, by participating on boards and as members of organizations, and through convenings. The Consortium provides numerous services to its members, including government relations and organizational liaison functions, and joint responses to various opportunities (e.g., RFPs, grants, collaborative projects). To serve students, the region, and the country, the Consortium manages the student cross-registration program (described later); the Consortium Research Fellows Program (a research program for graduate students and faculty in partnership with federal research centers (e.g., Army Research Institute, Air Force Research Laboratory), and the U.S. Institute of Peace); Reach4Success (a college counseling and access program); and the Campus Public Safety Institute (a collaborative training program for campus safety officers). The Consortium convenes numerous campus groups several times each year, including the emergency managers, chief academic officers, chief financial officers, chief student affairs officers, health center directors, government relations staff, public relations staff, admissions and financial aid staff, registrars, and others as the need arises.

The interconnected Consortium members provide enhanced education benefits to students and to the District and region that few other colleges and universities can match. Students receive an enhanced educational experience because they may cross-register for courses at other Consortium member institutions. Faculty research collaborations bring hundreds of millions of dollars in research grants and contracts annually (which result in hiring and spending) into the District and region that ultimately spin off intellectual property and new companies. Above all, Consortium institutions focus on three overarching goals: creating an educated populace; creating a platform for collaboration and innovation; and creating the District’s and the region’s knowledge economy.

The economic impact of the Consortium’s member institutions is extensive, directly or indirectly touching every aspect of the region’s businesses. Equally important, the global reputation of the member institutions attracts major and continuing investment from individuals, businesses, and governments around the world. The international
students and faculty who study and conduct research at our institutions contribute substantially to the regional export economy.

**Consortium colleges and universities significantly improve the quality of life for District and regional residents.** For example, Consortium students, faculty, and staff volunteer hundreds of thousands of hours each year to provide services to District and regional residents ranging from tutoring of students in P-12 classes to social service and healthcare programs to pro bono legal advice to picking up trash and cleaning streets. Additionally, the many cultural, informational, and athletic events offered provide residents a wide range of leisure activities.

**The Consortium Provides World-Class Educational Opportunities**

When considered together, Consortium institutions offer nearly every course of study imaginable at the undergraduate, graduate, professional, and lifelong learning levels.

- In addition to degree programs in the traditional humanities, social sciences, life and physical sciences, business, education, engineering, allied health, and public policy and public administration, Consortium institutions also offer degrees in architecture (CUA), law (American, CUA, Georgetown, GWU, Howard, UDC), and medicine (GWU, Georgetown, Howard, USUHS).
- Consortium members include the District's only dedicated colleges for art and design (GWU), dentistry (Howard), and pharmacy (Howard).
- NIU provides the only university programs in the District focused on the science of strategic intelligence.
- NDU offers the District’s only programs in logistics/resource strategy, strategic research and policy, and joint National War College training for national defense.
- USUHS develops highly competent health professionals to lead the uniformed health services, as well as conducts warfighter-relevant health research in support of our national security.
- The Consortium includes the District’s only land grant university (UDC) and only regional member of the Association of American Universities (UMD).
- Gallaudet is the only university in the world dedicated to educating deaf and hard of hearing students.
- The Consortium includes two universities designated as Historically Black Colleges or Universities (Howard and UDC).
- Trinity focuses exclusively on the education of women at the undergraduate level.
- Four institutions (Montgomery, NVCC, PGCC, and UDC) offer targeted workforce and job training programs.
- CUA offers the only Catholic canonical degrees (e.g., canon law) in the United States.
- Consortium universities are widely respected as a source of much of the country's diplomatic and international service professionals.

*The Consortium is the nation’s largest and most diverse organization of public and private nonprofit institutions to offer students the opportunity to cross-register for*
courses. Students who meet prerequisites are able to take courses that are unavailable to them at their home institution at other Consortium member universities (up to the credit limits established by each member). This means that students not only have direct access to their own world-class institution, but the full range of opportunities offered across the member institutions. The cross-registration program creates one of the broadest set of academic opportunities for students anywhere in the world.

The Consortium Is an Innovation Leader

The combination of human intellectual capital, outstanding infrastructure, headquarters or offices of the world’s leading public and private organizations in key industry clusters (e.g., technology and cybersecurity, analytics, and biomedical/biotech/biohealth), and major public funding entities (e.g., U.S. governmental agencies, private and corporate foundations) creates a synergy in the metropolitan Washington, DC area that is unique in the world. As a result, numerous research collaborations exist across Consortium members as well as with universities and other organizations globally.

Through its culture of research and development, Consortium members create and nurture a culture of innovation. Three key examples of broad collaborative areas for innovation include:

- **Biomedical/biotech/biohealth research.** Consortium universities are among the world’s leaders in research on various topics of biomedical/biotech/biohealth research, including neuroscience, cancer, public health, genetics, photonics, cell and microbiology, medical devices, surgical and other intervention techniques, healthcare and healthcare disparities, pharmacology, and the application of technology to biomedical settings.

- **Cybersecurity.** Consortium universities combine several academic programs that hold various certifications (e.g., National Security Agency) with research to create one of the nation’s best collaboratives for intelligence gathering and analysis, data security, and trusted computing.

- **Big data and analytics.** Consortium universities have created various centers and collaborative efforts for the collection and analysis of large datasets. These efforts are essential to a wide variety of disciplines ranging from national security intelligence to meteorology to epidemiology and health.

Consortium universities have a long and successful record of turning research into patents and other protected intellectual properties that often have spearheaded startup businesses. **The Consortium is home to two members (GWU and UMD) of the DC I-Corps™ node, funded by the National Science Foundation, one of the country’s largest and most successful technology start up accelerators.** Several members support campus-based incubators for this purpose, as well as partnerships with regional and state organizations to foster the development of domestic and international businesses.
Future Potential: Deeper and Broader Partnerships

Great potential exists for even stronger partnerships between the Consortium and the region and country. Such partnerships would be grounded in the unparalleled intellectual capital afforded by the Consortium members’ faculty, staff, and students. Opportunities include:

- **Creating a model for the talent pool the country needs.** The breadth and quality of the academic programs at Consortium colleges and universities along with the cross-registration options provides an opportunity to create a global model of efficient and effective ways to educate students.

- **Creating stronger economic growth.** The diverse and deep expertise at Consortium institutions positions it to extend and expand regional and national global leadership in the innovation-knowledge economy.

- **Providing background analyses on and solutions to key strategic and security issues.** The combined intellectual capital within the Consortium provides unique academic and research approaches to critical strategic and security issues facing the region and country. The unique combination of military and civilian universities provides unparalleled opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

- **Keeping people healthy.** The combined power of research on and delivery of healthcare across Consortium members with regional resources such as NIH and FDA puts the Consortium at the lead in redefining the ways to keep people healthy and the policies necessary to guarantee that care.

Conclusion

The Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area represents an invaluable asset to the metropolitan Washington, DC area and our nation. Opportunities to further deepen and broaden the partnerships and potential that currently exist would benefit all. The Consortium stands ready to enact the ideas presented here and looks forward to continued discussions to enact them.
Appendix A: Consortium Member Institutions

District of Columbia Members

American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave. NW
President: Sylvia Burwell
Board of Trustees Chair: Jack C. Cassell
www.american.edu

The Catholic University of America
620 Michigan Ave. NE
President: John H. Garvey
Board of Trustees Chair: Joseph L. Carlini
www.catholic.edu

Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave. NE
President: Roberta (Bobbi) J. Cordano
Board of Trustees Interim Chair: Claire Bugen
www.gallaudet.edu

The George Washington University
2121 Eye St. NW
President: Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc
Board of Trustees Chair: Nelson A. Carbonell, Jr
www.gwu.edu

Georgetown University
37th & O Sts. NW
President: Dr. John J. DeGioia
Board of Directors Chair: William J. Doyle
www.georgetown.edu

Howard University
2400 6th St. NW
President: Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick
Board of Trustees Chair: Stacey J. Mobley, Esq.
www.howard.edu

National Defense University
300 5th Avenue, Fort McNair
President: VADM Frederick “Fritz” Roegge
Board of Visitors Chair: Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton, USAF (Ret.)
www.ndu.edu
Trinity Washington University
125 Michigan Ave. NE
President: Patricia A. McGuire, JD
Board of Trustees Chair: Patricia O’Brien, SND
www.trinitydc.edu

University of the District of Columbia
4200 Connecticut Ave. NW
President: Ronald Mason, Jr.
Board of Trustees Chair: Christopher Bell, Esq.
www.udc.edu

Maryland Members

Montgomery College
900 Hungerford Drive, Suite 300, Rockville
President: Dr. DeRionne Pollard (on sabbatical fall 2018)
Acting President: Dr. Stephen Cain
Board of Trustees Chair: Hon. Michael J. Knapp
www.montgomerycollege.edu

National Intelligence University
Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters
President: Dr. J. Scott Cameron
Board of Visitors Chair: Maureen A. Baginski
www.ni-u.edu

Prince George's Community College
301 Largo Rd., Largo, MD
President: Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
Board of Trustees Chair: Howard W. Stone, Jr.
www.pgcc.edu

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
4301 Jones Bridge Rd., Bethesda, MD
President: Dr. Richard W. Thomas
Board of Regents Chair: Dr. Ronald R. Blanck
www.usuhs.edu

University of Maryland College Park
College Park, MD
President: Dr. Wallace D. Loh
University System of Maryland Board of Regents Chair: James T. Brady
www.umd.edu
Virginia Members

George Mason University
4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA
President: Dr. Ángel Cabrera
Board of Visitors Rector: Thomas M. Davis
www.gmu.edu

Marymount University
2807 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA
President: Dr. Irma Becerra
Board of Trustees Chair: Dr. Edward Bersoff
www.marymount.edu

Northern Virginia Community College
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
President: Dr. Scott Ralls
NVCC College Board Chair: Rick Pearson
State Board for Community Colleges Chair: Robin Sullenberger
www.nvcc.edu