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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Washington Partnership's Capital CoLAB Announces New Advisory Committee Chairs

This group of business leaders will be instrumental in guiding CoLAB's strategic priorities as it seeks to engage 45,000 learners in digital tech pathways by 2025

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Greater Washington Partnership announced three new advisory committee chairs to guide the priorities and work of the Capital CoLAB. Tom Kirchmaier, Senior Vice President for Planning, Communications and Trade Compliance at General Dynamics, and Nora Gardner, Managing Partner of McKinsey & Company's Washington, DC office, will serve as Co-Chairs. Ardine Williams, Vice President, Workforce Development, HQ2 at Amazon will serve as Vice Chair. These three leaders will be instrumental in ensuring the Capital CoLAB, along with business and academic partners, builds a thriving, diverse, and equitable tech talent ecosystem in the Capital Region. Wes Bush, the inaugural Chair of the Capital CoLAB and former Chairman, CEO, & President of Northrop Grumman Corporation, will continue to participate as an active member of the CoLAB Advisory Committee.

The Capital CoLAB (the "Collaboration of Leaders in Academia and Business") aims to build a comprehensive and equitable strategy to ensure that all people — regardless of zip code — can participate and thrive in our increasingly digital economy. Digital tech continues to be one of the most in-demand job categories, and recent research from the CoLAB and McKinsey projects that more than 60,000 jobs will go unfilled annually through 2025. In 2020, the CoLAB committed to engaging 45,000 students and adult learners in digital tech pathways, at least 50-percent of whom will be from underrepresented populations, by 2025.

"The Capital CoLAB's commitment to ensuring our current and future workforces have the right talent and skills to succeed in the evolving economy is a benefit to both business and to our region as a whole," says **Tom Kirchmaier, Senior Vice President for Planning, Communications and Trade Compliance at General Dynamics**. "As we continue to recover and rebuild from a tumultuous year, educational opportunities from the K-12 setting to the workplace will be a crucial ingredient in ensuring equitable and inclusive growth. I look forward to working with my fellow co-chairs, the business and academic communities, and others to achieve the ambitious goal of engaging 45,000 learners in digital tech pathways by 2025."



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"The Capital Region has tremendous growth potential as a leading technology hub, and the key to success will be developing our local talent pipeline," says **Nora Gardner, Managing Partner of McKinsey & Company's Washington, DC office**. "The CoLAB is actively working with business and academic partners to prioritize initiatives that will support learners at every level of education. I am excited to join the leadership of the CoLAB in continuing to build an equitable and sustainable tech talent ecosystem that will help drive our region forward."

"The Capital Region possesses a unique set of qualities, which is what drew Amazon to choose this as the location for HQ2. A major component is the diverse communities that shape the culture and economy, and the robust educational infrastructure that produces highly skilled and engaged employees," says **Ardine Williams, Vice President, Workforce Development, at Amazon**. "The Capital CoLAB recognizes the region's strengths and brings together all the partners, from K-12 educators, colleges & universities, and businesses, to align on a shared vision that prioritizes equitable and inclusive access to learning opportunities. Together, we're positioning the region to be a leader in producing highly skilled and diverse tech talent. I'm privileged to support the effort."

"From the beginning, the Capital CoLAB has been clear-eyed about its mandate: work with cross-sector partners to build the nation's preeminent tech talent ecosystem in the Capital Region and do so in a way that prioritizes inclusivity and equity," says **Wes Bush, Chair Emeritus of the Capital CoLAB and former Chairman, CEO, & President of Northrop Grumman Corporation**. "I'm proud of how far we've come in just three years and look forward to staying involved in this important work. I am excited that this talented group of executives committed to the success of our region will be guiding the CoLAB forward."

"The premise of the Capital CoLAB is built on collaboration and bringing together decision-makers from across sectors to achieve the shared vision of ensuring our region has the most diverse digital tech workforce in the country," says **Dr. Jeanne Contardo, Vice President & Managing Director, Capital CoLAB**. "Our three new chairs are going to be critical in helping to define our strategies to accomplish the vision, and I look forward to working with them. I would also like to give my sincere thanks to Wes Bush for his tireless commitment to CoLAB."

Since its inception in 2018, the CoLAB has advanced regional tech talent programs at an unprecedented scale. Together with **17 major employers, 20 universities, and five jurisdictions comprised of K-12 school districts, community colleges, and four-year institutions, from Baltimore to Richmond**, the CoLAB has **engaged over 800 learners** in professional and educational experiences that will prepare them for the entry level tech and tech adjacent roles that fuel our regional economy.

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About the Greater Washington Partnership

The Greater Washington Partnership is a first-of-its-kind civic alliance of CEOs in the region, drawing from the leading employers and entrepreneurs committed to making the Capital Region—from Baltimore to Richmond—one of the world's best places to live, work and thrive. Working in collaboration with leaders across our communities, the Partnership connects and leverages the region's extraordinary assets to advance inclusive, actionable solutions that strengthen Capital Region as a leading global region and center for commerce and innovation.

