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Gallaudet University Joins the Greater Washington Partnership's Capital CoLAB

Gallaudet University joins the Capital CoLAB, becoming the 20th university in the region from Baltimore to Richmond to offer Digital Tech Credential pathways.

Washington, D.C., March 4, 2022 – Today, the [Greater Washington Partnership](#) announced that it has added Gallaudet University to the [Capital CoLAB](#) (Collaborative of Leaders in Academia and Business). Gallaudet University launched the CoLAB's Digital Tech Credential program in the Spring 2022 semester, which is currently underway.

The Capital CoLAB, the flagship initiative of the Greater Washington Partnership's skills and talent work, is an action-oriented partnership that brings together leaders from the region's diverse academic institutions and from the region's largest employers to expand the diverse digital tech talent ecosystem. CoLAB's programs span K-12 school districts, community colleges, universities, and large employers who are all working to ensure that the National Capital Region offers pathways to digital tech employment while expanding and diversifying the learners who pursue it.

Gallaudet University, located in Washington, DC, has a 158-year history of educating and empowering deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind students, and is well-equipped to maximize its CoLAB partnership. "The Gallaudet Promise focuses on the priorities of extraordinary learning and academic excellence, knowledge creation and discovery, and signing ecosystems and career success," said **Roberta J. Cordano, President of Gallaudet University**. "We are committed to growing the signing ecosystem so that our students will have greater choices."

Gallaudet will make the Digital Tech Credential available to over 1,000 undergraduate students through its School of Science, Technology, Accessibility, Mathematics, and Public Health. Aligned with its mission to empower deaf and hard of hearing students, the university will deliver credential curriculum in a bilingual environment using American Sign Language and English. This parallels CoLAB's mission to



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support inclusive economic growth through industry-aligned digital tech pathways that prepare more learners for in-demand jobs in the region.

“We are thrilled to welcome Gallaudet University into the CoLAB,” said Francesca Ioffreda, **Vice President of Inclusive Growth and Talent Initiatives at the Greater Washington Partnership**. “With its long history of groundbreaking innovation, rigorous research activity, and its industry-aligned programs, Gallaudet will be a critical partner in the CoLAB’s goal to engage 45,000 students in digital tech pathways—at least 50% of whom will be from underrepresented backgrounds—by 2025.”

About the Greater Washington Partnership

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

About Gallaudet University

[Gallaudet University](#), federally chartered in 1864, is a bilingual, diverse, multicultural institution of higher education that ensures the intellectual and professional advancement of deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind individuals through American Sign Language and English. The university enrolls over 1,300 students in more than 30 undergraduate majors, as well as many graduate programs at the master’s and doctoral level.

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