

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA SCIENCE CENTER FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH GEORGE MASON FOR SECOND ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH CYBER INITIATIVE (CCI) INTERN PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JULY 5, FAIRFAX, VA – The Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation is pleased to announce the second annual Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) and Northern Virginia Node (NoVA Node) internship participants have been selected. The CCI NoVa Node program comprises the region’s universities, colleges, and private, nonprofit, and government organizations, all sharing a commitment to building capacity in cybersecurity.

George Mason University is the higher education leader of the Northern Virginia Node, one of four regional nodes funded in part by a \$20M annual investment by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Thirty rising seniors and rising first-year college students were chosen out of the 179 applications and interview process to comprise the second NoVA Node Cohort. The program includes a virtual two-week professional skills training boot camp with the Science Center where the interns develop communication, collaboration, project management and presentation skills through team projects and interaction with industry and science center experts. The boot camp is followed by a five-week placement in a cyber related business allowing for collaboration between fundamental skills training and meaningful industry understanding.

The NoVa Node program is grateful to the following companies as industry partners in the 2022 Commonwealth Initiative internships. Each company is hosting two or more interns from July 5 through August 5.

CACI International Inc.
Chainbridge Solutions
F1 Computer Solutions
Leidos
ManTech International Corporation
NT Concepts, Inc.

Obscurity Labs
Oceus Networks, LLC
Singlepoint Global
Widely, Inc.
NSA/NRO/CIA collaboration

“Now in the second year of our partnership with the Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation, it's truly exciting and rewarding to expand the number of CCI NoVa Node interns we are able to develop and place with leading cybersecurity innovators”, said Liza Wilson Durant, Ph.D., Professor, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives & Community Engagement, College of Engineering and Computing, and Director of the CCI Northern Virginia Node and Associate Provost at George Mason University. “Each facet of this cybersecurity professional skills development program is critical to the success of the young interns and to ensuring that the employers who are taking a chance on high school talent will see exceptional performance. Our expanded investment in high school students is seeding a wider pipeline of cybersecurity talent that will benefit the region.” For more information about the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, visit <https://www.cci-novanode.org/>.

About Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation

The Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates the Children's Science Center Lab at Fair Oaks Mall and STEM programs traveling to schools and other community venues across the region. The Foundation is helping develop the

Northern Virginia Science Center Foundation



Northern Virginia Science Center in partnership with the Science Museum of Virginia through a pivotal public private partnership that also includes Loudoun County and critical support from the private sector. The Science Center will be located in Dulles, VA and will be a world-class, interactive museum for families, students, and learners of all ages that will spark and sustain the natural curiosity in all of us. Learn more at novasci.org.

About George Mason University

George Mason University is Virginia's largest public research university. Located near Washington, D.C., Mason enrolls nearly 40,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. Mason has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity and commitment to accessibility. In 2022, Mason celebrates 50 years as an independent institution. Learn more at gmueu.

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