

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *The City of Alexandria supports and celebrates higher education as a means of personal and professional development, thereby strengthening the fabric of community and commerce; and*

WHEREAS, *not only do institutions of higher education enrich the lives of their students and faculty through sustained pedagogy and presence, these same establishments send forth educated and fortified individuals who augment the communities that they inhabit; and*

WHEREAS, *George Mason University (GMU) is one of these such centers of higher education, and has, since its inception, continued to make great contributions to our community for the past 50 years in Alexandria and the surrounding Northern Virginian municipalities; and*

WHEREAS, *since opening its doors on April 7, 1972, GMU started as a branch campus of the University of Virginia, and today is one of Virginia's largest, most inclusive, and most innovative universities, hosted by three campuses in Northern Virginia, and one in South Korea; all the while upholding its motto, "Freedom and Learning," to a host of hundreds of thousands of alumni whom have joined the workforces of Alexandria, Northern Virginia, and countless points worldwide; and*

WHEREAS, *as of 2019, the city counted among its inhabitants 4,823 GMU alumni; and*

WHEREAS, *since 2003, GMU has led the Virginia Network of 27 Small Business Development Centers, including the Alexandria SBDC established in 1996 and hosted by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership; and*

WHEREAS, *Mason's highly successful Early Identification Program (EIP) was established to help first-generation students attend college; and since 2014, ACPS EIP students have received more than \$250K+ in scholarship funds to attend GMU, with several of these ACPS students receiving full tuition scholarships; and*

WHEREAS, *Today, on the Alexandria Campus of the NOVA system, 385 students from Mason's ADVANCE Partnership are being mentored along through matriculation to eventually graduate from Mason; and*

WHEREAS, *George Mason University continues to strive for K-12 academic support and excellence in working in collaboration with our community's school programming to assist in post-pandemic literacy interventions through their initiation of a state-wide project to build literacy with a scalable, comprehensive hybrid program provided by Mason's College of Education and Human Development, and available to educators, students, and their families; and*

WHEREAS, *therefore it is fitting that the City of Alexandria pay homage on this day to George Mason University.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby recognize:

"THE 50th ANNIVERSARY of GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY"

In the City of Alexandria and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 5th day of April, 2022.*

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC

City Clerk

