**Sample Language Adapt to Proposal as Appropriate**

George Mason University is a minority serving institution (MSI) through its US Department of Education designation as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPSI). Recent national college rankings recognize George Mason University’s commitment to diversity and social mobility. U.S. News & World Report’s “2023 Best Colleges List” named Mason as one of the top 10 public universities in the nation for diversity. In 2024, national rankings, Mason was recognized as the number one university in Virginia for social mobility by both the Wall Street Journal and Washington Monthly.

In Fall 2023, 29.8% of Mason undergraduate students, 18.6% of graduate/professional students were from underrepresented minorities. Women represented 49.2% of undergraduate students, 58.8% of graduate/professional students and 53.6% of faculty/staff.

George Mason University (Mason) strongly supports programs and initiatives to continue to enhance diversity, equity, inclusion and access

**Mason ADVANCE Catalyst**: In 2022, Mason received an NSF Advance Catalyst Award to analyze factors that impact science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) faculty composition in terms of gender and underrepresented racial/ethnic minority representation. The program goal is to develop a data-based framework to enhance Mason faculty diversity.

**George Mason University’s ARIE** Initiative was established by President Gregory Washington in 2020 to support an inclusive and equitable campus environment, where every community member, without exception, is valued, supported and experiences a sense of belonging. Mason committed 5 million dollars over a 3 year timeframe to initiate ARIE activities in alignment with Mason’s Inclusive Excellence Framework. ARIE’s five areas of focus promote **Access and Success**, a diverse and inclusive **Campus Climate**, **Education and Scholarship** on domestic and international diversity equity, inclusion and social justice, **Infrastructure and Accountability** and **Community Engagement.** **ARIE** will ensure thatMason continues to serve as a national leader in inclusive excellence through intentional and transformative practices.

**The Mason Virginia Promise (MVP)** is a pathway to a bachelor’s degree or help starting a business for Virginia residents. Students who earn their associate’s degree at a Virginia community college designated as a Mason Academy partner are guaranteed admission to Mason to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

Mason’s MVP initiative also includes training and financial support for all Virginians who aspire to start a business through Mason Enterprise’s suite of entrepreneur and small business programs. These resources encompass 27 Small Business Development Centers, APEX accelerator programs for assistance with government contracting, five Northern Virginia technology incubators, Entrepreneur-in-Residence program, and other federal, state and local support programs.

In 2021, the Mason Enterprise team advised and supported 11,000 small businesses with 42,000 hours of one-on-one counseling. In addition, 20,000 entrepreneurs took part in 753 no-cost or low-cost training programs. Mason’s entrepreneur and small business programs have made a $1.6 billion impact in the commonwealth.