In his last will and testament, George Washington envisioned a university in the heart of the nation’s capital that would serve as an intellectual hub for the country. Today, through our vast network of world-class academic opportunities, access, partnerships and policy-research initiatives, GW puts its knowledge to work for immediate impact.

The university was chartered by an Act of Congress from the White House and mere blocks from many major government and non-governmental agencies, making research, internship and career opportunities for students and faculty literally a short walk away.

The Foggy Bottom Campus, the Mount Vernon Campus and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus

ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN D.C.

10 SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

500,000

approximate gross square footage of GW’s Science and Engineering Hall (SEH), the largest academic building dedicated to these fields in the nation’s capital

GW has 116 endowed faculty positions, and 10 faculty members currently are members of the National Academies. GW is also recognized among the top-producing institutions for Fulbright Scholars, with more than 79 current and former scholars serving within the university’s ranks. Plus, GW produces several Fulbright students working on various issues around the world each year. Our alumnus and the creator of the scholarships, former Senator J. William Fulbright, LLB ’34, would no doubt be proud.

GW makes a point of connecting academia to policy and the workplace. In fact, three current deans hold leadership positions in high-profile organizations in their respective disciplines: the Elliott School of International Affairs’ Reuben Brigety II serves on the Atlantic Council Board of Directors, Lynn Goldman of the Milken Institute School of Public Health serves on the National Academy of Medicine Governing Council and Ben Vinson III of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences is a member of the National Humanities Center Board of Trustees.

Service and real-world engagement are a major part of GW’s student culture. GW’s annual Freshman Day of Service and Convocation officially welcomes the incoming class to their academic and civic life with engaging speakers and service with partners throughout D.C. And this commitment grows during students’ four years: GW features 70 community-engaged scholarship courses, and last year, the GW community logged a record 711,841 hours of community service.

To learn more about how the George Washington University makes history, visit us at www.gwu.edu.
• In addition to members currently serving in Congress, noted public servants among GW’s alumni include former Secretary of State Colin Powell, former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, former SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace, retired Coast Guard Commandant and national incident commander for the Gulf oil spill Thad Allen, and former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

• In the spring of 2017, GW’s comprehensive campaign, Making History, exceeded its $1 billion goal. Making History supported students, enhanced academics and broke new ground for future generations of citizen-leaders.

• According to a recent survey, nearly 91 percent of the Class of 2016 reported that, within six months of graduation, they were employed, pursuing a graduate degree, volunteering or are otherwise engaged in a gap year, military service or other activity.

• The Aspen Institute’s Impact Careers Initiative reported that GW produces the second highest number of service professionals among national universities, with 31.1 percent of graduates who entered government, education or nonprofit fields from 2000 to 2010.

• For more than a decade, GW has had a fixed tuition policy for undergraduates, under which a student’s tuition is guaranteed to remain at the same rate for up to five years of attendance at the university.

• Through its Access and Success initiative, GW is committed to increasing access to higher education by forming partnerships with organizations such as the Posse Foundation and Say Yes to Education. Since 2015, GW has been test optional, dropping the SAT or ACT requirement for most undergraduate applicants.

• In 1982, GW established the world’s first political communication major.

• Every four years, GW marks the Jan. 20 inauguration of a new U.S. president and vice president by hosting its own black-tie Inaugural Ball.

• The significance of the school colors of buff and blue are that they were the colors that George Washington wore in battle.

• Now 50 percent solar-powered for its electricity, GW is making major strides towards its commitment to being carbon neutral by 2040.

• In 1981, the GW Hospital treated President Ronald Reagan in the emergency room after an attempted assassination.

• One of the most important moments in the 20th century was revealed at a conference on the GW campus: On Jan. 26, 1939, Niels Bohr announced that Otto Hahn had successfully split the atom.

• Edward Teller, nuclear physicist and father of the hydrogen bomb, taught at GW from 1935 to 1941. Edward P. Jones, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, is a current GW English professor.

• Current and former Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas, William Strong, David J. Brewer, Willis Van Devanter and John Marshall Harlan have been among those who have served on the GW Law faculty. Moreover, Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and former Justice Antonin Scalia have all, respectively, presided over its constitutional law moot court in recent years. Justice Alito presided for the second time in January 2016.

• Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke delivered a seminar class exclusive to GW students titled “Reflections of the Federal Reserve and its Place in Today’s Economy,” giving students an intimate, behind-the-scenes look into the financial crisis and its aftermath. Additionally, U.S. Senator Rand Paul teaches a lecture class titled “Dystopian Visions.”