



Institute for
Digital InnovAtion



THE WEEKLY

Now Recruiting: Institute for Digital Innovation (IDIA), Executive Director

The Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Impact is recruiting a new IDIA Executive Director. Current Mason Faculty interested in the Additional Assignment are encouraged to apply. You can find more information about the position and the required performance and personal competencies for the position at this link: [IDIA Executive Director - Additional Assignment Position Description.docx](#)

We are requesting a cover letter and CV by April 25, 2025.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Microsoft AI Skills Fest

Participants are invited to elevate their AI skills during 50 days of discovery and learning starting April 8. Whether they're tech experts, newcomers to AI, or business professionals, there's something for everyone. The

program includes live events, in-person training, self-paced lessons, hackathons, and more—offering a comprehensive experience tailored to a variety of backgrounds and goals.

When: April 8 - May 28

Register [here](#)

A promotional banner for the Microsoft AI Skills Fest. The banner features the Microsoft logo in the top left corner. The main title "Microsoft AI Skills Fest" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, blue font. Below the title, the subtitle "Unlock the future with 50 days of AI discovery and learning" is written in a smaller, black font. A paragraph of text describes the event: "Join learners from around the globe for a kick-off on April 8 to help us set a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for *most users to take an online multi-level artificial intelligence lesson in 24 hours.*". The banner is divided into two main sections by rounded rectangular boxes. The left box, titled "April 8 Kickoff Celebration", describes a 24-hour blitz to build AI skills and attempt a Guinness World Records title. The right box, titled "April 8–May 28 50 days of learning", describes curated AI training, including hackathons, live events, and self-paced tutorials. At the bottom left, there is a Guinness World Records logo and the text "OFFICIAL ATTEMPT". In the center, a button-like graphic says "Register today at aka.ms/AISkillsFest". On the bottom right, there is a QR code. The background of the banner is a light beige color with a subtle pattern of small dots.

7th Annual Mason Energy Forum

The 7th annual Mason Energy Forum will address the complex relationship between AI, data centers and the data economy, and the changed energy transition environment. It will be a day of panels from leading policy makers, academics, and private sector players on the energy promises and potential difficulties of AI, as well as local challenges for public resources and engagement.

Register [here](#)

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APRIL 23, 2023
Van Metre Hall, 125
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

[REGISTER
HERE TO
ATTEND](#)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

David Sandalow, Inaugural Fellow
Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University

Mason Square Campus
3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201

Virginia Square-GMU Metro on the Orange/Silver Lines
Hourly parking available in the Van Metre Garage

GeoTech Forum 2025

The Geopolitics of Technology Forum (GeoTech Forum) is an annual conference bringing together leaders in technology and government at the forefront of innovation. Designed for STEM and policy professionals—from undergraduate students to seasoned experts—the forum offers a gateway into technology policy careers and research.

Participants will engage in two days of workshops, career fairs, networking events, and the full GeoTech Forum conference experience.

When: April 11th - 12th

Where: Mason Square Campus

AWS Cloud Workshop @ GMU

The College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) is partnering with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to bring a hands-on cloud computing workshop!

Whether you're new to cloud computing or already have experience, this workshop offers something for everyone. Gain practical skills that will give you a competitive edge in today's tech job market!

Where: Nguyen Engineering Building, First Floor

When: April 18, 2025

Time: 4-6PM

Register [here](#)



LONG and KIMMY NGUYEN ENGINEERING BUILDING

aws x **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY** College of Engineering and Computing

CLOUD WORKSHOP

Join us for an interactive cloud workshop with AWS — hands-on learning, expert guidance, and valuable skills to power your tech journey!

 4:30pm
FRIDAY 18 APRIL, 2025

 Nguyen Engineering Building
1ST FLOOR ATRIUM

 Register here
[APP.BRAZENCONNECT.COM/EVENTS/MNMY](https://app.brazenconnect.com/events/mnmy)

REGISTER NOW

 **BENTECH**
BLACK EMPLOYEE NETWORK



SCAN ABOVE



AWARDS

Congratulations to:

Cummings, Missy from the [College of Computing and Engineering](#) for receiving the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) grant on Machine Learning for Space Situation Awareness

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[Translational Bioinformatics and Experimental Approaches to Advance Drug Repositioning and Combination Therapy Development for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) - National Institute on Aging/NIH/DHHS](#)

Deadline: June 6, 2025

[NEI Research Grant for Vision-Related Secondary Data Analysis \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) - National Eye Institute/NIH/DHHS](#)

Deadline: June 16, 2025

[Technology Development Research for Establishing Feasibility and Proof of Concept \(R21 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed\) - National Institute of General Medical Sciences/NIH/DHHS](#)

Deadline: June 16, 2025

***If a funding opportunity limits the number of applications the university can submit, it will be posted and managed through the Research Development Services office. Please contact limited@gmu.edu or Sheila Davis sdavis46@gmu.edu if you have questions or are unsure if the opportunity is a limited submission opportunity.

IDIA AFFILIATION

Did you know that, as an IDIA faculty affiliate, you are eligible to:

Receive support for [IDIA-relevant events](#)

Become part of the [dynamic multidisciplinary faculty network](#) focused on digital techniques and technologies to advance fields as diverse as finance, education, built infrastructure, science, economics, agriculture, health, transportation, entertainment, national security, and social justice.

There is no financial burden to you or your departments for affiliation with the institute. Participation in IDIA does not prevent its members from being associated with other university centers. If you are not already affiliated, we encourage you to submit your profile [here](#).

SHARE WITH US

We are eager to hear from you! As we work with your colleges to compile updates on digital innovation-related research activities at Mason, we would love to hear about your research activities, awards, and recent publications. Please share any successes, concerns, or ideas with us at idia2@gmu.edu



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