Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement
between
Northern Virginia Community College
And
The George Washington University

This Agreement ("Agreement") is effective as of this 1st day of April 2018 by and between Northern Virginia Community College and The George Washington University, a Congressionally chartered institution in the District of Columbia (individually referred to as "Party" and collectively referred to as "Parties").

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) offers an Associate degree to students who have successfully completed its academic requirements; and

WHEREAS, the George Washington University (GW), through its School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS), its School of Nursing (SON), and its College of Professional Studies (CPS), offers certain Bachelor degrees to students who have successfully completed its academic requirements; and

WHEREAS, NOVA and GW recognize the need to facilitate the admission of students to GW who have successfully obtained an Associate degree from NOVA; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement supersedes the following agreements entered into between GW and NOVA: the 2011 articulation agreement with BPS in Integrated Information, Science and Technology (under CPS) and the 2014 agreement between NOVA and the GW School of Medicine & Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement does not supersedes the following agreements entered into between GW and NOVA: the 2012 Guaranteed Admissions Agreement in Nursing between the VCCS and GW and the 2014 agreement between the VCCS and School of Medicine & Health Sciences.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish the foundation for an affiliation designed to facilitate the seamless transfer of NOVA graduates to certain degree programs in SMHS, SON, and CPS. Specifically, this Agreement sets forth the terms and conditions under which NOVA graduates are guaranteed admission to GW. This Agreement further sets forth the specific terms and conditions under which courses that are transcripted by NOVA, as described in mutually agreed upon curriculum pathways, will transfer fully to meet degree requirements in certain baccalaureate degree programs at GW.
B. Acceptance and Application of Credits

1. NOVA and GW will agree upon specific curricular pathways that include courses that will fully satisfy lower division general education requirements as well as any specific baccalaureate degree requirements defined in the curriculum pathways ("Curriculum Pathways"). A template of the Curriculum Pathway format is attached as Exhibit A. The Curriculum Pathways will be reviewed by the Parties annually.

2. Graduates of NOVA with Associate of Arts degrees or Associate of Science degrees who have satisfied the Curriculum Pathways and are admitted to GW SMHS, SON, or CPS under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, will be admitted to junior status at GW, including for purposes of scholarship eligibility and priority registration.

3. Graduates of other NOVA degree programs, including, but not limited to Associate of Fine Arts degree and Associate of Applied Science degree programs, who have satisfied a Curriculum Pathway may be required to take additional courses within their major at GW. NOVA graduates of such programs may be required, in the discretion of GW, to complete more than 120 credits to complete the Bachelor degree at GW. Courses that are completed in a Curriculum Pathway will be transferred fully and not as elective credit to meet Bachelor degree requirements.

4. Only coursework in which grades of “C” or higher have been earned at NOVA may be applied toward the Bachelor degree requirements at GW.

5. GW will accept credit for prior learning such as DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests) and CLEP (College Level Examination Program) as transcripted by NOVA and as listed on the GW website for the year in which a NOVA graduate seeks admission to GW will be accepted. GW will also accept Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate credit provided the scores meet GW admissions thresholds. GW also will evaluate courses/credits earned at other institutions.

6. No distinction will be made by GW regarding college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degrees that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools, provided the courses meet the general education credit requirements of NOVA.

7. GW will maintain course equivalency information in its online Transfer Guide. It will alert NOVA to proposed changes in course equivalency at least one year before such changes are implemented.

8. To be eligible for graduation from GW, students must meet the minimum academic residency requirements for their respective programs as outlined in the GW University Bulletin.
C. Admissions Practices

1. NOVA graduates who desire to transfer to a baccalaureate degree program at GW, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, must apply to SMHS, SON, or CPS, depending upon the program.

2. NOVA graduates who desire to transfer to GW SMHS, SON, or CPS must meet the same prerequisites, grade point average (GPA) and other admission criteria, as all other applicants to these programs as set forth in the GW University Bulletin.

3. In addition to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, NOVA applicants must meet the all other non-academic requirements for admission as set forth in the GW University Bulletin.

D. Roles and Responsibilities of NOVA and GW

1. This Agreement, including Curriculum Pathways and relevant transfer equivalencies, will be reviewed annually by NOVA and GW. Each Party will designate an individual to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement and to coordinate meetings designed to maintain inter-institutional articulation. In addition, NOVA and GW SMHS, SON and CPS will identify one individual to serve as the main contact for each pathway program.

2. An inter-institutional leadership team will be appointed to plan joint initiatives and to review transfer success.

3. GW agrees to provide NOVA with reports of enrolled NOVA transfer students, their majors and academic performance when ten (10) or more NOVA graduates are enrolled at GW in any given year. NOVA agrees to use the transfer data to improve student preparation for transfer and to report its progress to GW.

4. NOVA agrees to promote GW as a Guaranteed Transfer Partner.

5. NOVA agrees to provide space (e.g., in a campus advising center) for a GW representative. In addition, GW will be invited to attend NOVA transfer fairs.

6. NOVA and GW agree to collaborate on the development of a reverse transfer protocol that would enable NOVA transfers to GW who do not complete a bachelor’s degree to be awarded an Associate’s degree from NOVA if they satisfactorily complete the appropriate coursework.

7. GW will supply a representative to a NOVA program advisory committee for each program in which a pathway is developed. NOVA will host program advisory committee meetings annually. Both Parties agree to encourage faculty to collaborate frequently.
8. NOVA will host an event (e.g. NOVA Night) at the George Washington University to help welcome new NOVA transfers to GW and promote the support of a cohort.

9. NOVA will sponsor at least one annual recruitment visit, including transportation, to GW’s Virginia Science and Technology Campus for NOVA students with greater than thirty (30) college credits and potentially qualifying GPAs who indicate an interest in transferring to GW.

10. Both NOVA and GW agree to design and implement a program evaluation plan to ensure the performance of students within the transfer pathways is consistent with generally acceptable indicators success. The evaluation plan would include defined parameters of student success, such as but not limited to degree completion rates, time to completion rates, academic performance measures, and analyses of dual enrollment courses relationship with success in subsequent coursework in related subject matter.

E. **Term and Termination**

1. The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years and will commence on March 1, 2018 and shall expire on March 1, 2022. This Agreement may be renewed for additional periods if the parties agree in writing.

2. This Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent of the parties in writing.

3. This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon one-hundred eighty (180) days' notice in writing. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, NOVA students accepted for admission to GW at the time any notice of termination is received shall be permitted to complete their program under the terms and conditions of this Agreement. No new NOVA students shall be admitted to GW under the terms of this Agreement after either Party receives notice of termination.

F. **Notice**

All notices related to this Agreement shall be deemed properly issued if given in writing and hand delivered or sent by e-mail (receipt acknowledged), or mailed (registered or certified mail, return receipt requested), with all postage or other charges prepaid to:
If to NOVA:

Dr. Sharon Robertson  
Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Northern Virginia Community College  
4001 Wakefield Chapel Road  
Suite 226  
Annandale, VA 22003

With a copy to:

Dr. Mel Schiavelli  
Executive Vice President, Academic & Student Services  
Northern Virginia Community College  
4001 Wakefield Chapel Road  
Brault Building, Room 305  
Annandale, VA 22003

If to GWU:

Catherine Golden, EdD  
Associate Dean, Academic Planning & Assessment,  
The George Washington University  
School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,  
Washington DC 20037

With a copy to:

Mary Lynn Reed Senior Counsel  
Office of Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
(202) 994-6503 (Telephone)

G. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Severability. If any provision of the Agreement is held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable under present or future laws effective during the term of this Agreement, to the extent that the substance of this Agreement remains intact, the validity and enforceability of the remaining provisions of the Agreement shall not be affected thereby.

2. Waiver. Any waiver of any provision hereof shall not be effective unless expressly made in writing and executed by the party to be charged. The failure of any party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any rights granted hereunder or of the further performance of any such term, covenant
or condition, and the obligations of the parties with respect thereto shall continue in full force and effect.

3. **Compliance with Applicable Laws.** The parties agree to comply with applicable laws, regulations, rulings, and standards and amendments thereto, of all entities that regulate, license, govern and/or accredit the parties, including, but not limited to, federal, state and local governmental entities.

4. **Other Affiliations.** Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit any party from affiliating or contracting with any other entity for any purpose whatsoever.

5. **Use of Name.** Except for the exclusive purpose of advertising the program to NOVA students, NOVA may not use GW’s name or any of its registered marks without GW’s prior written consent in each instance. Additionally, GW may not use NOVA’s name or any of its registered marks without NOVA’s prior written consent in each instance. These prohibitions extend to inclusion of GW’s and NOVA’s name in client lists and press releases.

6. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

7. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed upon by the parties regarding the subject matter of the Agreement and supersedes any prior agreements, releases, or stipulations, oral or written, and all other communications between the parties relating to such subject matter. This Agreement may be amended only by written agreement executed by the Parties.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Northern Virginia Community College and The George Washington University hereto have executed this Agreement by their duly authorized representatives as of the date first above written.

Northern Virginia Community College
By: Melvin D. Schiavelli, PhD
    Executive Vice President
    Northern Virginia Community College

Date: 04/25/2018

The George Washington University
By: Forrest Maltzman, PhD
    Provost and Executive Vice President
    The George Washington University

Date: 05/21/18

By: Jeffrey S. Akman, MD
    Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean,
    School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Date: 05/09/18

By: Pamela R. Jeffries, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANEF
    Professor and Dean, School of Nursing
    The George Washington University

Date: 05/10/18

By: Christopher J. Deering, Ph.D.
    Interim Dean
    College of Professional Studies

Date: May 14, 2018