



AURP Insights into Research Parks George Mason University

April 22-23, 2026

Manassas, VA

(As of 3.4.26)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Guest arrival and hotel check in

Recommendation: Tempo by Hilton Manassas, 9849 Discovery Blvd, Manassas, VA 20109

Closest Airport: Washington Dulles International Airport, approximately 35-minute drive to the hotel

Or Reagan National Airport, approximately 50-minute drive to the hotel

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

OPTIONAL EVENT

Visionary Voices: Designing the Future: Where Placemaking Sparks Innovation and Growth

Sweeney Barn [9310 Discovery Blvd, Manassas]

- Stephen Coulston, Managing Principal, Perkins and Will
- Kevin Byrne, President and Chief Executive Officer, The University Financing Foundation

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Check In

Tempo by Hilton Manassas [9489 Discovery Blvd, Manassas]

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM

Welcome to the Nova Live Campus

- Kevin Rieger, Vice President of Operations, NOVA Live

2:15 PM

Transportation Departs

All transportation sponsored by OmniRide, a smarter and more inclusive demonstration of commuter and fixed route transit in the Virginia area.



2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

County led Commercial Wet Lab Incubator to Spur Economic Growth

Endeavor 234 [11100 Endeavor Ct, Manassas]

- Cohava Gelber, Chief Executive Officer, Serpin Pharma
- Helena Kondow, Life Science Business Manager, Endeavor 234
- Liz Pyle, Mason Enterprise Tech Mentor
- Moderator: Tom Flynn, Economic Development Advisor, Prince William County

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Semiconductor Manufacturing and Partnerships to Ensure a Workforce Pipeline to Maintain U.S. Competitiveness: Tour: Micron Fabrication Facility and Panel Discussion

Micron [9600 Godwin Dr., Manassas]

- Delbert Parks, Vice President, Frontend Manufacturing Operations, MTV at Micron Technology
- Chad Knights, Vice President, Information and Engineering Technologies and College Computing, Northern Virginia Community College
- Ethan Ahn, Professor, George Mason University
- Jason Calhoun, Director, Governor's School @ Innovation Park
- Jason Cottrel, Director, Advance Program
- Moderator: Zuzana Steen, Director of Academic and Community Relations, Micron

- 5:45 PM – 6:15 PM** **Happy Hour in Historic Downtown**
CenterFuse [9071 Center St., Manassas]
- Hosted by Jackie Krick, President and CEO, ECU Communications
- 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM** **Welcome Dinner**
Manassas Museum [9101 Prince William St., Manassas]
- Mayor Michelle Davis-Younger
 - Gregory Washington, President, George Mason University
 - Chair Deshundra Jefferson, Prince William County Board of Supervisors
 - Lisa Shapiro, Managing Director, GO Virginia Region 7
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Thursday, April 23, 2026

- 7:50 AM – 7:55 AM** **Meet in Hotel Lobby**
- 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM** **Networking Breakfast and Opening Remarks**
Brentsville Hall, Nova Live [9915 Discovery Blvd., Manassas]
- Vickie Palmer, Chief Executive Officer, AURP
- 8:45 AM – 9:30 AM** **Building on 30 Years of History to Create and Launch an Innovation District**
Brentsville Hall, Nova Live [9915 Discovery Blvd., Manassas]
- Christina Winn, Executive Director, Prince William County Department of Economic Development and Tourism
 - Patrick Small, Director, Economic Development, City of Manassas
 - Laura O’Blenis, President and CEO, Stiletto: Make a Point
 - Lovey Hammel, President, Employment Enterprises
 - Andre Marshall, Vice President, Research, Innovation and Economic Impact, George Mason University
 - Moderator: Amy Adams, Executive Director, Innovation District (anchored by George Mason’s SciTech)
- 9:45 AM – 10:30 AM** **Creating a Collaborative Statewide Life Science Ecosystem to Attract, Retain, and Grow Pharma and Biotech in the Commonwealth**
Brentsville Hall, Nova Live [9915 Discovery Blvd., Manassas]
- Grace Festa, Director, Biopharmaceuticals, Virginia Economic Development Partnership
 - Hal Irvin, Associate Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology Outreach, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Virginia Tech
 - Kevin Leslie, Associate VP – Innovation & Commercialization, Old Dominion University
 - John Newby, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Bio
 - Moderator: Amy Adams, Executive Director, Innovation District (anchored by George Mason’s SciTech)

- 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM** **Lab to Launch, a Statewide Initiative to Standardize Fast-Track License Agreements for Commercializing University Research**
Brentsville Hall, Nova Live [9915 Discovery Blvd., Manassas]
- Joe Benevento, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation
- 11:15 AM** **Transportation Departs**
- 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM** **TOUR: Hylton Performing Arts Center**
[10960 George Mason Circle., Manassas]
Established through a Partnership with the County, City, and University to Integrate the Arts into the Region's Social, Economic, and Community Fabric
- 12:00 PM** **Lunch**
Room 2402; Life Sciences and Engineering Building [10930 George Mason Circle., Manassas]
- 12:40 PM – 1:00 PM** **Re-thinking Mobility: Understanding What Microtransit can Bring to Urbanized Science Parks**
Life Sciences and Engineering Building
- Bob Schneider, Executive Director, OmniRide
- 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM** **Preparing for Next Level Growth: International Soft-Landing Program and Future Growth Space**
Life Sciences and Engineering Building
- Matthew Holbrook, Regional Partner, St. John Properties
 - Jaehan Park, Chief Executive Officer, Naugen, Inc.
- 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM** **Building and Growing a Nationality Ranked Biopharma Cluster**
Fireside Chat with a visionary CEO Headquartered in the Innovation District
- Rich Bendis, Chief Executive Officer, Biohealth Innovation, Inc.
 - Ruth Cheng, Chief Executive Officer, ATCC
- 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM** **Strategic Collaborations Will Accelerate Innovation and Regional Prosperity**
Learn about Neighboring Parks and Districts-National Innovation Quarter, WV Tech Parks
- Michael Stiefvater, Director, Business Investment Group, Arlington Economic Development Group
 - Charlie Dusic, Chief Financial Officer / Chief Operating Officer, West Virginia Tech Parks
 - Brett Malone, Chief Executive Officer, UT Research Park at Cherokee Farm
 - Mary Morris, Director, Baltimore Fund, University of Maryland BioPark
- 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM** **An Innovation District Located in the Data Center Capital of the World: Partnerships that will Drive the Future**
- Liling Huang, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Dominion Energy Faculty Fellow
 - Daniel Kociola, Senior Economic Development Market Specialist, Dominion Energy
 - Jack Bidlack, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Information and Engineering Technologies,
Regional Center for Workforce Education and Training (WRC)
 - Moderator: Jacqueline Connor, Associate Director, University Priorities Science and
Technology Campus, George Mason University

- 4:10 PM – 5:00 PM** **TOUR: Life Sciences and Engineering Building**
[10930 George Mason Circle., Manassas]
Tour of a Next Generation Multi-Disciplinary Academic Laboratory Building: From Mechanical Engineering Capstone Experiences with Local Industries to Using Virtual Reality for Mobility and Fall Prevention in Older Adults, and Advancing the Field of Forensic Science at the Body Farm.
- 5:15 PM – 5:45 PM** **TOUR: Biomedical Research Lab**
[10650 Pyramid Place, Manassas]
Positioning a NIAID Funded Regional Biocontainment Lab as a Core Facility to support academia, government, and industry to advance infectious disease research and develop new medical countermeasures.
- 5:45 PM** **Transportation back to Tempo Hotel**
- 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM** **Dinner and Fireside Chat**
Brentsville Hall, Nova Live
How a Historic Barn and 21 acres was transformed into Nova Live, a destination entertainment hub located in the innovation district
- Marcus Silva, President and CEO, Villagio Group
 - Christina Winn, Executive Director, Prince William County Department of Economic Development

<http://www.aurp.org/>