



Employer Commute Benefit Program Case Study

Employer

George Mason University

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Contact

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Background

George Mason University (GMU) Prince William/Sci-tech campus was founded in 1997. George Mason University's 134-acre Science and Technology Campus serves more than 4,000 students in innovative facilities specially designed for classrooms, laboratories, libraries, recreation, and the arts. The campus provides convenient university access for citizens of Prince William, Fauquier, and western Fairfax counties; the cities of

Manassas and Manassas Park, and adjoining areas to the west and south. The GMU Sci-tech campus is also home to one of the Mason Enterprise Centers. A business incubator and telework assistance center, the Enterprise Center provides professional and technical support services as well as employer training for Telework programs for area work sites.

The Situation and Solutions

GMU Sci-tech is situated in the technology corridor of Prince William County. It is located 5 miles from Interstate 66 providing convenient access to the roadway for commuters coming from points east and west. Many of the faculty and staff reside west and south of the campus, some traveling from Southwestern Virginia. With over 5,000 employees and 4,000 students commuting to campus, GMU looked to alleviate the commutes of those employees who have long travel times as well as parking issues and created an employee carpool/vanpool program. To assist in finding carpool and vanpool potential riders, GMU implemented their own ridesharing system using Zimride. For

encouraging carpooling and vanpooling, GMU set up a carpool preferred parking program. Carpool Zone, Carpool Preferred, and Carpool Premium all function for both faculty/staff and students. A campus shuttle with stops in Manassas and the Fairfax campus as well as the Burke VRE stop provide opportunities for employees and students to use public transportation instead of driving alone to campus.

GMU is an avid supporter of bicycling to campus, hosting bike to work events each spring for employees, as well as hosting a pit stop for the Washington regional Bike To Work Day the third Friday of May each year.

The Impacts and Future

The GMU Sci-tech campus is still growing and the constraints of construction on parking and access to buildings for students and staff will have significant impact on commuting. The university is confident in addressing future matters with the strength of their current programs and partnerships with local businesses.

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