

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Health and Economic Impacts of Vaccine Distribution *ODU subject matter experts and researchers available.*

Norfolk, VA (December 10, 2020) – Old Dominion University researchers from across disciplines are available to discuss the health, economic and supply chain impacts of the coming COVID-19 vaccines.

- **The final stretch is long and lined with hurdles** – From lab development to multi-phase testing to final approval, introducing a vaccine to tackle COVID-19 has been grueling. However, the final phase of the process may prove to be just as challenging if not more so. Moving vaccines from distribution centers to clinics and finally to patients involves a maze of regulations and supply chains that must be navigated for effective distribution to nearly every citizen in the country, not to mention the world. **Erika Marsillac**, associate professor of supply chain management, and **Robert McNab**, director of the Dragas Center for Economic Analysis and Policy, are prepared to discuss the logistics and economic impact of manufacturing, supply chain, transportation and storage challenges related to vaccine rollout.
- **Medical and scientific experts address vaccine efficacy and compliance** – **Emilia Oleszak**, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences who has investigated coronaviruses for years, is prepared to address concerns about COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness despite how quickly it was developed. Oleszak has also worked at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Medical School at Houston and Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. **Anna Jeng, ScD**, professor in Old Dominion University's School of Community and Environmental Health and who has served on the Virginia State Board of Health, is prepared to address the prioritization of vaccine distribution and safety issues.
- **Vaccines hold promise for public health, but economic recovery may be a long road** – While the news of coming vaccines brings hope to many about the economy, they will not halt the economic damage, which will continue around the world. **McNab** is available to discuss ongoing economic challenges, particularly for businesses that rely on close physical proximity between people, such as hospitality, retail, entertainment and recreation.

To schedule an interview, please contact Keith Pierce via email at k1pierce@odu.edu or cell at 610-405-6373.

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ABOUT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY:

Old Dominion University is Virginia's entrepreneurial-minded doctoral research university with more than 24,000 students, rigorous academics, an energetic residential community and initiatives that contribute \$2.6 billion annually to the Commonwealth's economy.



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President Broderick's State of the University Address Highlights ODU's Progress Despite the Pandemic

"We have moved forward with bold initiatives, partnerships and many successes," he said.

Norfolk, VA – (November 9, 2020) – Old Dominion University continues to thrive despite the challenges created by COVID-19, President John R. Broderick said in his 13th annual State of the University address, which was delivered virtually on Monday.

"Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu said, 'Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all of the darkness.' Old Dominion is pursuing the light," President Broderick said. "Despite the constraints and hurdles facing us, we have moved forward with bold initiatives, partnerships and many successes."

He spotlighted ODU's intensified collaborations in the maritime and health-care fields.

He cited the University's critical role in the newly formed Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth & Innovation. A work group, led by Nancy Grden and Mileta Tomovic, will "frame a strategy for ODU to become a maritime model for the world," President Broderick said. "We will build synergies from strongholds in such areas as resilience and supply chain management, and we will pursue opportunities to engage in pioneering research."

He pointed out ODU's role in launching the first two operating offshore wind turbines in the Southeast. When the project is completed in 2026, it is expected to be the largest wind farm in the country, supplying power to 650,000 homes.

In health care, he cited the state's establishment of the Hampton Roads Biomedical Research Consortium, consisting of ODU, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Sentara Healthcare. The commonwealth has engaged a consulting firm to study the ideal structure for this collaboration.

President Broderick said these are prime examples of how ODU values collaboration.

"Maritime and health care are literally miles apart, but these developments both rely on the value of partnerships," he said. "We don't believe in going it alone."

Other important collaborations he noted were a joint project with NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, led by graduate student Brett Buzzanga, to pinpoint the worst spots for subsidence in Hampton Roads and two new efforts between ODU's Center for Global Health and Physicians for Peace.

There was also the Remote Experience for Young Engineers and Scientists (REYES) initiative, spearheaded by Giovanna Genard and Raúl Briceño. Taught by ODU faculty as well as researchers from institutions including NASA, the Jefferson Lab and the Mexican Space Agency, the program attracted 7,400 registrants from 115 countries, which "adds to our substantial record in diversity and inclusion," he said.

Among other successes he cited:

- More than \$1 billion in new resources in the past 12 years, including \$186 million from the University's ongoing fundraising initiative, and, most recently, \$17 million in additional general funding from the state.
- ODU's enrollment increases in the summer and fall semesters, with 3% growth in the latter, which defies national trends.
- Old Dominion's launch of its School of Cybersecurity, the only one of its kind in the country with a dual focus on undergraduates and graduate students. Under Michael Wu's leadership, the program has grown from 11 to 800 students in five years, filling a crucial workforce need in the commonwealth.

President Broderick also announced a \$5 million commitment from the Batten family to endow the University's sailing program. That is among several major gifts in the past year, including a \$1 million donation from alumnus Michael Le for the digital theater and modern planetarium in the new Chemistry Building and bequest commitments of more than \$1 million each from James Mills, William Edelstein and Chandra Brooks. Other significant gifts came from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation for Recover Hampton Roads and from GENEDGE for our Engineering Makerspace and Invention Center.

Looking ahead, President Broderick said two new buildings will open next semester: The Hugo Owens House, which with 470 beds will be the University's second-largest residence hall, and the Chemistry Building, a state-of-the-art facility that will include 37 labs. Additionally, a new Health Sciences facility is on track to open in 2022 and the University has planning permission for a biology building.

President Broderick said this means that total funding for STEM-H facilities planned or under construction has reached nearly a quarter of a billion dollars.

"This is great news for the region's future job generation and job retention efforts in both STEM-H and new business startups," he said.

A video of the address can be seen at <https://odu.edu/stateoftheuniversity>.

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ODU Signs Tech Talent Investment Agreement

MOU provides \$29.2 million over the next two decades to increase computer science and computer engineering graduates

Norfolk, VA – (November 7, 2019) – As part of a statewide effort to stimulate the production of computer science and computer engineering graduates, Governor Ralph Northam announced today that Old Dominion University was selected to participate in the Commonwealth’s Tech Talent Investment Program.

"This initiative is an investment in Virginians," said Governor Northam. "Virginia’s tech sector will continue booming only if we can train the workforce those jobs require. With today’s announcement, we are educating a workforce that will fill jobs at hundreds of tech companies around the Commonwealth, including at Amazon, helping boost our economy and quality of life in every corner of Virginia."

Old Dominion University will receive \$29.2 million over the next two decades to help grow the number of computer scientists and computer engineers in the Commonwealth. Continued funding is contingent on meeting graduation targets in these key fields.

"We are excited to participate in the Tech Talent Program, which will offer access, diversity, cost-effectiveness, and affordability to Virginians," said President John R. Broderick, who led the university’s effort to be a part of the program. "More importantly, as a leader in distance learning and social mobility, we will be able to leverage those strengths to make sure that residents from the Eastern Shore to Appalachia, and everywhere in between, have the opportunity to earn degrees in these high demand areas."

He also noted that Old Dominion produces the second-largest percentage of STEM-H graduates among Virginia's doctoral institutions.

As part of the agreement to participate in the program, the University has committed to producing an additional 765 bachelor's degree recipients in computer science and computer engineering by 2039. The vast majority of this growth is expected to come from online programming.

One of the university's first distance learning programs, enrollment in online computer science courses is expected to grow as students continue to seek innovative course delivery methods.

To provide additional opportunities for degrees in high demand, ODU will begin to offer its Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering online. It will be the first computer engineering program available in an online format in Virginia and one of only a few available in the nation.

"Whether working with degree completers or first-time freshmen taking classes online from anywhere in the Commonwealth," said Brian Payne, vice provost for academic affairs, "we will make sure that the curricula and support needed to help students succeed in these programs is available."

Other strategies planned include:

- Growing on-campus enrollments in computer science and computer engineering through enhanced outreach, recruitment and partnerships with businesses.
- Expanding 3+2 degree programs in computer science and computer engineering with universities that don't have BS programs in these areas.
- Working with regional employers to offer cohort-based programs to up-train existing employees and serve as a pipeline for new employees.
- Expanding outreach and support programs to help those leaving the military stay in Virginia and earn degrees in computer science and computer engineering.

Past trends highlight the demand for computer science and computer engineering programs at ODU. In fact, degrees awarded in these fields increased by 83.9 percent between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

"Building on ODU's ability to recruit a diverse student population, which includes a higher percentage of students of color, women, and degree completers, and our legacy of giving access to non-traditional students who cannot always attend on-campus classes, these graduates will help to increase the inclusivity and reach of the tech talent pipeline," Broderick said.

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