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DC Area Universities Join Together to Promote Environmental Stewardship
Five Schools Compete for Pledges in Region's Annual Car-Free Day Event

Washington, D.C. — Five universities in the Washington metropolitan area have created a friendly inter-campus challenge, The Capital Car Free Campus Competition, which encourages faculty and staff to ditch their cars and walk, bike and use public transit during the region's **Car Free Day, Thursday, September 22**. Car Free Day is an annual event sponsored by Commuter Connections, a regional transportation network coordinated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

George Mason University, Georgetown University, American University, the University of Maryland, and the University of the District of Columbia challenged staff and faculty to pledge to go Car Free or Car-Lite on Car Free Day, and will declare a winner based on which school has the highest percentage of its community taking the pledge.

Car Free Day is open to all residents in the DC area. By pledging to go Car Free or Car Lite at www.carfreemetrodcc.com, registrants become eligible to **win great prizes** such as an **Apple iPad**, a **bicycle**, **Washington Nationals tickets** and more. Capital Campus Car Free Competition competitors must take the pledge using their university email address to be counted in the challenge.

Commuter Connections hosts the annual event to demonstrate the benefits of alternatives to drive alone travel, such as transit, ridesharing, bicycling and telework. All drivers in the Washington metropolitan area are encouraged to take the pledge before

Car Free Day on September 22 to help reduce the region's carbon footprint and decrease traffic congestion.

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Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Commuter Connections promotes bicycling to work, ridesharing and other alternatives to drive alone commuting, and provides ridematching for carpools and vanpools and offers the free Guaranteed Ride Home program.

Commuter Connections is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and U.S. Departments of Transportation. www.mwcoq.org, www.commuterconnections.org.