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GW to Launch New Master of Patent Practice Degree**Program Designed to Meet Growing Need for Patent Professionals, Opens Doors to Career in Law, Policy, Science or Technology**

WASHINGTON— In response to the need for patent professionals to address an expected increase in patent filings, challenges and litigation, George Washington University's College of Professional Studies will launch a master's degree in patent practice in fall 2013.

The 32-credit degree focuses on law, policy, practice and engineering and includes material that will prepare graduates to take the U.S. Patent Bar exam. The program is open to anyone with bachelor's degrees in engineering, science, computer science or mathematics. Graduates of the program will be eligible to work such as patent examiners, patent agents, patent paralegals or patent consultants.

The curriculum includes legal research, patent law and policy, graduate level engineering, science, and technology courses, material on challenging and defending patents, writing and oral communication.

"Patent practice is crucial to American commerce," said Toni Marsh, CPS associate dean for new initiatives and director of the program. "Patents are corporations' stock in trade – their inventory. All the innovation that is happening today is happening in patents. This degree will prepare our graduates to work at the center of that exciting universe."

The expected rush on patent filing comes from the America Invents Act which has amended the U.S. patent system from a first-to-invent system to a first-to-file system, setting off a dash to the patent office.

"The program provides students with all the skills they need to succeed in a highly competitive but equally rewarding field: law, policy, technology, and communications," said Ms. Marsh.

Classes for the program will take place at GW's Alexandria Graduate Education Center and in Foggy Bottom. For more information on the program, go to: <http://cps.gwu.edu/patent>.

GW's College of Professional Studies

Established in 2001, The George Washington University College of Professional Studies (CPS) is dedicated to adult learners and working professionals. CPS offers undergraduate and

graduate programs that address the competency requirements of adults working in emerging and rapidly changing professions. For more information, please visit <https://cps.gwu.edu>.

George Washington University

In the heart of the nation's capital with additional programs in Virginia, the George Washington University was created by an Act of Congress in 1821. Today, GW is the largest institution of higher education in the District of Columbia. The university offers comprehensive programs of undergraduate and graduate liberal arts study, as well as degree programs in medicine, public health, law, engineering, education, business and international affairs. Each year, GW enrolls a diverse population of undergraduate, graduate and professional students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 130 countries.

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