

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, DC



## PRESS RELEASE

### **A prominent corporate leader and a university president join the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC Board**

WASHINGTON, DC, April 27, 2015: Rick Knop, Managing Member at FedCap Partners, Virginia, and Matthew Shank, President of Marymount University, Virginia, are elected members of the [World Affairs Council – Washington, DC](#) Board of Directors.

“I am honored to return to the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC Board to continue the work of delivering global education, international affairs, and global communications programming to local, national, and international teachers, students, and other publics,” said Knop, who previously served on the Board from 2008 to 2011. “Fostering the development of a new generation of global citizens is vital to America’s success in our increasingly diverse, multicultural, and interconnected global economy.”

“The three pillars of Marymount University’s education foundation are intellectual curiosity, service to others, and a global perspective; and these tie directly into the World Affairs Council’s global education mission priorities,” said Shank. “Through my Board service I intend to advance a mutually beneficial strategic partnership between Marymount and the World Affairs council – Washington, DC that will enhance our ability to provide a global perspective to our American and international student body.”

“The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is committed to educating American students, teachers, and the public about America, our world, and the global community,” said Edie Fraser, Chairwoman of the World Affairs Council – Washington, DC Board. “I am delighted to welcome a distinguished educator, Matt Shank, and to welcome back an accomplished international business leader, Rick Knop, to help our Board advance the WAC-DC mission priorities.”

The World Affairs Council – Washington, DC is ‘A Leading Forum for Global Education and International Affairs’ and an institution ‘Where Learning Happens’. The Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to expanding awareness among the American public and the international community, of geopolitical, business, environmental and civil society issues, in our inter-connected world.

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**J. Richard Knop** serves as a Managing Member at FedCap Partners, LLC. Mr. Knop co-founded the FedCap Partners. He serves as a Consultant at BB&T Capital Markets. Mr. Knop served as the Head of International Investment Banking for BB&T Capital Markets. He was the Founder of BB&T Capital Markets|Windsor Group and served as its Chairman. Mr. Knop co-founded Windsor Group (later acquired by BB&T Capital Markets) in 1992 and led its development into the premier investment bank for the government/defense contracting industry. He served as President of National Capital Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth. Mr. Knop has over 20 years of investment banking experience. He has closed a broad range of investment banking transactions, including well over 100 defense and government contractors mergers ranging from \$10 million to \$1.2 billion in the past 17 years. Prior to his investment banking career, he founded and managed a diversified international energy production and distribution company, specialized in international corporate transactions as a Partner of a Washington law firm, and served as a Legal Advisor and Legislative Assistant at the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Congress.

**Matthew Shank** became Marymount University's sixth president in July 2011. President Shank is active in community and business organizations, serving on the boards of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Arlington Community Foundation, the Catholic Business Network of Northern Virginia, American University in the Emirates (Dubai), Bishop O'Connell High School, Dominican Retreat House, and Leadership Arlington. He is an ex-officio member of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, a Global Advisory Group member of the World Affairs Council, and a community advisor to the Arlington Free Clinic and Arlington Public Schools. In the academic community, he serves on the boards of the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, and the Washington Research Library Consortium.

**Eddie Fraser** is CEO of STEMconnector and MillionWomenMentors and Vice Chair of Diversified Search. Ms. Fraser was Founder and CEO of Diversity Best Practices (DBP). She was publisher of the CEO Magazine, The Diversity Primer and The Diversity Officer. Ms. Fraser is also the founder of the Business Women's Network (BWN) and Best Practices in Corporate Communications (BPCC), and is former President of a PR agency. She has won 43 major awards in Diversity and Women's Leadership. Ms. Fraser sits on numerous boards and advisory boards which include: World Affairs Council – Washington, DC; Enterprising Women Magazine.