

Gary L. McDowell Institute
Student Fellows Program, 2021-22

The Gary L. McDowell Institute at the Jepson School of Leadership Studies seeks applicants for the 2021-2022 Student Fellows Program. The primary goal of this program is to enrich the intellectual experience of students interested in political, social, and economic thought. We anticipate selecting 10-12 fellows this year.

During the second half of the fall semester, the fellows will begin a co-curricular reading group focused on Jonathan Rauch's *The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2021). Rauch is a graduate of Yale University and a senior fellow in the Governance Studies program at Brookings. *The Constitution of Knowledge* is a treatise on "liberalism's epistemic operating system." Rauch claims that this system is "the product of hard-fought battles and hard-won norms and institutions, and many people suffered and bled for it along the way. It is not self-maintaining; it relies on an array of sometimes delicate social settings and understandings, and those need to be understood, affirmed, and protected."

After fall break, fellows will begin an exploration of enduring questions raised by the text and apply insights to contemporary issues. Discussions will be facilitated by Dr. Kevin Cherry, Associate Professor of Political Science. In the spring semester, the fellows will complete Rauch's book and host Rauch as our scholar-for-the-day. Rauch's discussion with the fellows and his public lecture is scheduled for **March 29, 2022**. Student fellows must be available for these programs.

True to the principles that inspire the McDowell Institute—free inquiry, thoughtful deliberation, and rigorous discussion of classical texts and issues—we welcome students, regardless of their political perspective. The program seeks to engage ideas across the ideological spectrum, including conservative, liberal, and libertarian ideas.

Interested students should submit by email a statement of interest in the Fellows Program and the name of a University of Richmond faculty member who is willing to serve as a reference to Dr. Terry Price, Co-Director of the Gary L. McDowell Institute, at tprice@richmond.edu. A selection committee consisting of Dr. Price, Dr. Cherry, and Dr. Dan Palazzolo, Co-Director of the McDowell Institute, will begin a review of applications on September 27, 2021.