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Miller Center's Guian McKee Awarded Grant for Research on History of U.S. Health-Care System

Charlottesville, Va. – Guian McKee of the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs has won a grant from the Bankard Fund for Political Economy. The Bankard Fund supports research programs at U.Va. that are deemed to have the greatest possible influence on the public policy needed for a healthy private-business system and national economy. The grant, which takes effect on June 1, will provide research time as well as cover travel and research expenses.

McKee's project, "Hospital Cities, Health Care Nation," will examine the history of urban hospitals and medical centers since World War II. The project will place the development of those hospitals and medical centers within the context of the changing economic and social character of U.S. cities and the problematic growth of the U.S. health-care system.

"The Bankard grant will make it possible for me to give the project the attention and focus it needs," McKee said. "There's nothing more valuable in the early stages of research than to have the time to develop an idea and do intensive research."

"I hope that my project will yield new insights into the social and economic significance of the health-care sector in U.S. communities," said McKee.

"Because hospitals are now so important to the economies of big cities, health-care policy has become a form of urban policy. And that's happened because of the interaction of public policies and private-business practices in a critical part of the U.S. economy."

Guian McKee is an associate professor of public policy at the University of Virginia. He joined the Miller Center's Presidential Recordings Program in August 2002 and has also been a faculty member at U.Va.'s Frank Batten School

of Leadership and Public Policy since 2009. McKee's books include "The Problem of Jobs: Liberalism, Race, and Deindustrialization in Philadelphia" and the upcoming "From the Grassroots to the White House: How Community Activists Transformed Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty." McKee has been a member of the Charlottesville City School Board since November 2010.

Founded in 1975, the Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution that aims to fulfill Jefferson's public service mission by serving as a national meeting place for engaged citizens, scholars, students, media representatives, and government officials to research, reflect, and report on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with special attention to the central role and history of the presidency.

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