The McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement is seeking applicants for the McLean Institute Innovation Scholars Program.

These competitive scholarships of **$8,000 per year for up to two years** are open to rising juniors and incoming transfer students at the University of Mississippi. Each cohort of 10 recipients will work with the McLean Institute’s [Catalyzing Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CEED) initiative](#). CEED will empower UM students and faculty to build actionable partnerships with Mississippi communities. These partnerships will increase entrepreneurship and promote economic development.

Successful applicants will be exemplary undergraduate students with an interest in entrepreneurship and economic development in Mississippi’s rural communities. The two-year period for each project will be used to research a problem and to develop a scalable solution. Solutions will take various forms: a business plan, a detailed framework for a non-profit organization, or a significant policy or academic research paper. Students will work with local communities to identify and refine compelling topics and to implement solutions. Projects will address social problems including poverty, education, asset building, and healthcare.

For their projects, awardees will be supervised by Dr. Albert Nylander, director of the McLean Institute and Professor of Sociology. Each year, the cohort will focus on rural communities. For the 2014-2015 cohort, the Innovation Scholars will work in the following counties: Calhoun, Coahoma, Lee, and Tallahatchie.

The Innovation Scholars will be required to complete the following during their junior and senior years:

- Participate in workshops sponsored by the McLean Institute.
- Complete either a summer internship or field work in their partner community. Scholars will be provided stipends to support their summer work.
- Complete one independent study or practicum course during their final year in the program. Projects may take the form of a business plan, policy proposal, nonprofit framework, or other scalable and actionable ideas.

To apply, eligible students must submit the following to nylander@olemiss.edu:

- A resume highlighting community service experience and relevant research or coursework.
- A two page statement of purpose highlighting the student’s interest in community and economic development. Applicants should indicate which of the four affiliate communities most interest them and why.
- A copy of unofficial transcripts from all undergraduate institutions attended.

Review of applications will begin on July 18, 2014, with additional applications accepted on a rolling basis. Finalists may be interviewed.

*The McLean Institute for Public Service and Community Engagement creates pathways through which the University of Mississippi cultivates mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance the quality of life for all Mississippians and instill a commitment to community and civic engagement in all members of the University community.*