Wednesday, April 10 (Students Only)

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Check-in and Student-only Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dialogue Across Difference Workshop with Urban Rural Action
Joe Bubman and Deborah Tien, Urban Rural Action.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Student Lunch and Presentation from UChicago Policy Challenge Winning Team

1:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Chicago Site Visits featuring Rural Practitioners*
*Off-site (Students and Invited Guests Only)

A. Real Estate and Community Wealth: Investing Where the Market Won’t

B. Responding to Violence: Models of Community Response and Care
The University of Chicago Medicine Trauma Center. Christine Goggins, Lead Violence Recovery Specialist at UChicago Medicine; Lynnette Grey Bull, Not Our Native Daughters.

C. Artists as Catalysts: Unlocking Our Civic Imaginations
Lawndale Pop-up Spot. Chelsea Ridley and Jonathan Kelley, Lawndale Pop-up Spot; Ashley Hanson, Department of Public Transformation.

D. Food and Entrepreneurship: The Role of Agriculture in Community Life
The Hatchery, West Garfield Park. Bruce Tiffany, Tiffany Farms.

E. Culture as a Community Development Tool: One Size Doesn’t Fit All
Englewood Bus Tour. Tonika Lewis Johnson, Folded Map Project; Taylor Stuckert, Lead for America.

Wednesday, April 10 (Public Portion)

5:00 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.
Is the Urban-Rural Divide a Real Thing?
Daniel Shea and Nicholas Jacobs, Authors of “The Rural Voter: The Politics of Place and the Disuniting of America.”

5:25 p.m. - 6:25 p.m.
Transforming Narratives: What We All Get Wrong About the Urban-Rural Divide
Sarah Smarsh, Author of “Heartland,” Rhymefest, Humanitarian and Songwriter. Moderated by Mary Louise Kelly, Host of NPR’s All Things Considered.

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Reception with Department of Public Transformation Urban+Rural Connect*
*Sky Suite at the Keller Center

Thursday, April 11

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Check-in and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.
We Need Each Other: Urban-Rural Interdependence
Doug Ducey, former Governor of Arizona; Xochitl Torres Small, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; Tony Pipa, Brookings Institution. Moderated by Institute of Politics Director Heidi Heitkamp.

10:10 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
The Great American Loneliness: Health Disparities and Deaths of Despair in America

11:10 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.
What Realities Are We Reading: Local News Deserts and Polarization
Jeff Zeleny, CNN; Tim Marema, The Daily Yonder; Silvia Rivera, Director of the Local News Program at the MacArthur Foundation. Moderated by Institute of Politics Founding Director David Axelrod.

12:20 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.
Lunch & Practitioner Break-out Groups: A New Paradigm for Urban-Rural Relationships

GROUP 1 - Investing in Our People: Workforce Development for Inclusive Economic Transitions

GROUP 2 - New Approaches to Economic Development
Rubenstein Forum, Room 502. Chrystel Cornelius, Oweesta Corporation; Baylen Campbell, Invest Appalachia; Ghian Foreman, Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative.

GROUP 3 - Building Lasting Relationships Across the Urban-Rural Divide
Rubenstein Forum, University Room. Anna Claussen, Voices for Rural Resilience; Savannah Barrett, Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange.

Bridging the Divide
Forging the Ties Between Rural and Urban America
9:35 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.  
Our Fraying Common Purpose: Rebuilding Democracy One Neighborhood at a Time  
Stephen Heintz, Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Michael Smith, AmeriCorps; Whitney Kimball Coe, Center for Rural Strategies. Moderated by IOP Executive Director Zeenat Rahman.

10:40 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.  
Changing the Narrative at the Grassroots - From Divide to Solidarity  
Whitley Yates, Indiana Republican Party; Manu Meel, BridgeUSA; Benji Backer, American Conservation Coalition. Moderated by Michael Strautmanis, Obama Foundation.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
How Lawmakers Can Still Find Common Legislative Ground in Polarized Times  
Rob Portman, Former U.S. Senator from Ohio; Joe Manchin, U.S. Senator from West Virginia. Moderated by Manu Raju, CNN.

3:00 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.  
Politics as Religion: The Role of Faith in a Secularizing America  

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
We Are What We Eat: The Urban-Rural Food System  
Janie Hipp, Native Agriculture Financial Services; Ertharin Cousin, World Food Programme; Lamar Moore, Bronzeville Winery. Moderated by Monica Eng, Axios Chicago.

The nonpartisan Institute of Politics is committed to fostering in our students a passion for public service and active engagement in our democracy.