







ideas as Americans. If the moral and intellectual integrity of our most basic political ideas is in doubt, so too are its ideological products and the authority of political groupings organized around those ideologies.”

I want to stress when I speak of the American context, I am speaking of where and how our political identities are formed, not limiting where they can and should have an impact. For as one of 200-plus Jesuit works of higher education across the world, we at Fairfield recognize our role in forming global citizens responsible to one common humanity. It is the essence of what we do and who our students are called to be.

## VOCATION

In closing my remarks, I would like to offer a notion of how we might answer this call to global citizenship. First and foremost, I would stress that no matter what profession or what further study you choose to pursue, you are called to be stewards; you are called to leave all you touch better than you found it. Or as the Irish statesman and political philosopher Edmund Burke wrote:

“Society is indeed a contract. It is to be looked on with other reverence; because it is not a partnership in things subservient only to the gross animal existence of a temporary and perishable nature. It is a partnership in all science; a partnership in all art; a partnership in every virtue, and in all perfection. As the ends of such a partnership cannot be obtained in many generations, it becomes a partnership not only between those who are living, but between those who are yet to be born.”

As you begin preparing for your next phase in this partnership allow me to offer some guiding principles:

1. Trust. This is fundamental. As the Brazilian novelist Paulo Coelho states so simply and elegantly, “None of us knows what might happen even the next minute, yet still we go forward. Because we trust. Because we have Faith.”

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