Montpelier is the historic home of President James and Dolley Madison, as well as multiple generations of slaves and workers who toiled on the Orange, VA plantation. Montpelier was where James Madison shaped the ideas that would become the U.S. Constitution as he meticulously studied past forms of governments and organized his thoughts into what he believed were the ideal principles for a representative democracy. Madison’s ideas would become the “Virginia Plan,” and later the framework for the Constitution. The Montpelier estate, which is open to the public, features the restored Madison home, gardens and cemeteries, archaeological sites, and more than three miles of forest trails.

Montpelier is also home to the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution which offers world-class on-site and web-enabled educational programming. The Center’s goal is to inspire participation in civic dialogue, improve the public’s understanding of the founding principles of the United States, and enable citizens to deepen their informed participation in democracy. Visit https://www.montpelier.org/ for additional information.

A focus for the service year with Montpelier will be determined by assessment of current needs but also influenced by strengths and interests of the selected Engagement Fellow. This position will report primarily to program staff in either the Museum Programs division or the Center for the Constitution, dependent on the final candidate.

Position Responsibilities
The Montpelier Engagement Fellow may work on one or more projects. These may include:

- gathering oral histories for the Museum Programs division and researching in historic records to develop the history of Montpelier’s enslaved community;
- working with the Center for the Constitution to develop web-based resources that aggregate digital media, eBooks and adaptive communications projects that increase public access to educational content on the U.S. Constitution;
- collaborating with the Montpelier Communications Department and the Center for the Constitution to coordinate recording projects including scholar talks, Your Weekly Constitutional radio shows and podcasts. Montpelier will open a state of the art $5M recording facility in the fall of 2016 and is already scheduling production events.

This fellowship requires active participation in service cohort meetings, reflection exercises and reporting in coordination with other fellows placed throughout the university. Fellows may also be asked to contribute to divisional or university goals and initiatives related to education access, community engagement or other priorities.

Qualifications
- Passion for making history and political science accessible for all.
- Interest in politics, policy development, and government.
- Effective interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to work at Montpelier preferred.
- Experience with one or more of the following:
  - New media and website production
  - Project management and program coordination
  - Digital humanities projects
  - Journalism

Submit applications through JMU Joblink by April 22, 2016.