Scholar-Citizen Initiative

**Academic Excellence and Student Success**

Since 2012 SCI has sponsored and credentialed:
- 48 faculty development and training experiences (civic seminars and book groups, mindfulness retreats, "Teaching in Appalachia Windshield Tour", ePortfolio workshops)
- 40+ student professional development activities impacting 1000+ students
- 182 designated classes
- 215 co-curricular experiences
- 6,097 documented student interactions

**Mission**

Drawing on Radford University’s traditions of student-focused teaching and service to the Commonwealth and the nation, the mission of the Scholar-Citizen Initiative (SCI) is to prepare students to be “responsible, mature and well-educated citizens” (RU Mission Statement, 7-17).

**Milestones**

- Launched in 2012 with a protected annual budget line of $225,000 as Radford’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), a mandatory component of reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSOC
- 5-year implementation cycle concludes June 30, 2017
- $115,000 in awards funded each year to support SCI classes and co-curricular experiences
- Spring 2013: Scholar-Citizen in Action Program (SCIA) inaugurated; 30 SCIA to date
- Dec 2013: First Scholar-Citizen graduates with distinction
- May 2015: First Scholar-Citizen Fellows graduate
- May 2016: Largest class of 19 students, including our first male candidates (5), graduate with distinction

**Markers**

- Scholar-Citizen Diploma Program: 180 students have applied to the Scholar-Citizen program with 36 graduates to date
- 5,500 students have participated in 80+ higher intensity co-curricular experiences (SCI “Tier 2” events) including leadership development programs, immersion experiences, and academic competitions. Examples include:
  - Annual Waldron College Interdisciplinary Symposium
  - Foods & Nutrition seniors’ attendance at the Foods & Nutrition Conference & Expo, leading to national internships and recognition of the department as an outstanding Didactic Program in Dietetics
  - Model United Nations Conference
  - Interdisciplinary “DC Experience,” a career development program for Criminal Justice and Political Science Students
- Robust partnerships between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs including:
  - Seed funding and partnership on expansion of MLK Week events
  - Integration with LEAD Scholars Program
  - Promoting & funding “SCI” co-curricular experiences (ex. College Affordability Speaker Series, Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program, alternative spring breaks)
- Collaboration on successful applications for the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll and NASPA

**Community Engagement**

SCI has a growing presence as a clearing house for information about service learning and civic engagement. Exemplary experiences have included:
- APST 480 Appalachian Teaching Project & Floyd County Place-based Education Oral History Project (Floyd County Schools)
- ART 340 Art Intervention Program (Radford City Schools)
- HLTH 325 Health Diversity in the US (Pulaski Free Clinic)
- Selu Student Community Garden
- Mountaintop Removal Alternative Spring Break

**Short Term**

Institutionalization of the Scholar-Citizen diploma pathway as an integrative learning program that emphasizes civic learning and engagement, applied learning contexts, curriculum to career connections, and reflective judgement.

**Longer Term**

- Becoming a Radford University signature program that contributes substantially to enrollment growth and alumni engagement.
- Development of a manageble assessment process that integrates programmatic outcomes and objectives across the university and supports data driven decision making.