



Scholar Citizen: Create. Connect. Contribute.
Executive Summary of Radford University's QEP

Radford University's QEP, *Scholar Citizen: Create. Connect. Contribute.*, evolved out of a broad university dialogue and is a reflection of the university's commitment to social responsibility, community leadership, and instructional innovation.

The focus of the Scholar-Citizen initiative (SCI) is to promote a teaching and learning culture that fosters a sense of how students can live their lives in ways that best contribute to the world around them. In practice, the goal is to support RU students' effective connection and application of academic skills and knowledge in addressing real-world issues locally, nationally, and globally. The Scholar-Citizen implementation centers upon the establishment of awards to support work in three areas (new course development, course-embedded projects, and co-curricular support). In addition, the SCI provides opportunities for ongoing professional education for faculty, staff, and students through a travel and special speaker series fund, as well as institutional support for the development and enhancement of courses, projects, and initiatives that connect academic knowledge with real-world experiences.

Through these award programs, Scholar-Citizen implementation efforts support the development, enhancement, and assessment of academic and co-curricular activities designed to focus on student learning and programmatic outcomes including:

1. Critical analysis of different viewpoints or theories about a contemporary issue using reliable sources.
2. Making connections between academic experiences/knowledge and participation in civic life, politics, and government.
3. Applying ethical reasoning to contemporary local, national, or global issues.
4. Solving problems in the context of contemporary local, national, or global issues.

Through implementation of the Scholar-Citizen initiative, Radford University will increase the number of students who engage in intensive cultural immersion experiences (including but not limited to alternative spring breaks and study abroad) and will provide increased opportunities for engaging academic and co-curricular experiences (such as community-based learning, undergraduate research, problem-based learning, internships, lecture series, roundtables, non-credit bearing community service, and leadership activities).

The Scholar-Citizen initiative provides opportunities for students to discover their scholarly identity and to utilize their academic training in ways that best contribute to the world around them. By encouraging the development of strong and ongoing mentor relationships with faculty members and by providing structured opportunities to participate in service learning, internships, and/or study abroad experiences, the RU Scholar-Citizen QEP provides a transformative opportunity for students to meaningfully synthesize connections between academic learning and their own lives.

For additional information contact: Dr. Erin Garrett-Webster, QEP Director and Associate Professor (ewebster2@radford.edu) or call (540) 831-7149.