



**Create. Connect. Contribute.** These words define the Scholar-Citizen Initiative. Sharing their passion for the arts, SCI students paint murals in public spaces, volunteer in art museums, and teach young children to explore their creativity.

— Dr. Roann Barris  
Art Department Chair/Professor of Art History

# RADFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR-CITIZEN

## Initiative



### Questions?

Questions about the application process and inquiries about the program may be directed to:

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SCI Director/Professor of English  
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540-831-7149

Stop by the SCI House at 905 Tyler Avenue to learn more!

 Facebook: RU Scholar-Citizen

 Twitter: @ScholarCitizen

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[www.radford.edu/sci](http://www.radford.edu/sci)

**CHANGE YOURSELF, YOUR COMMUNITY, OUR WORLD.**

# Lead Students Who Will Change the World: Teach in the Scholar-Citizen Initiative.

One of five premier High Impact Practices (HIP) programs at Radford University, the Scholar-Citizen Initiative, or SCI (pronounced like sky), is a key engagement pathway for both students and faculty to apply academic skills, research, and disciplinary knowledge to challenges facing our local, national, and global communities. Like the students involved in SCI, the faculty who lead SCI projects join a community of practitioners who turn learning into an active, organic, interdisciplinary experience that promotes positive change in the world.

## Every Field is a SCI Field

From modern dance to philosophy, SCI is rooted in the belief that every academic discipline can feature a civic engagement component to deepen and expand classroom learning. In SCI, dance classes explore the relationship between artistic performance and public trauma; math classes visit elementary schools to design community service activities that foster algebra skills and family bonding; and philosophy students travel to our nation's capital on a mission to parse out historical texts and their influence on modern-day government.

For specific examples of how faculty are partnering up with SCI to meet and exceed their teaching objectives, visit the SCI faculty web page.

## Teaching Perks and Benefits

### Professional development

- In addition to the progressive teaching methods SCI facilitates, it gives faculty the opportunity to enhance their CVs through research and service.
- SCI offers year-round faculty development opportunities, including book groups, workshops, seminars, and monthly Teaching and Learning Circles.
- Pedagogy grants of \$750 or more are awarded for SCI curriculum development.
- In addition to the money faculty receive to achieve SCI course objectives, they are eligible to receive funds to “buy out” a class from their course load, which frees up time, energy, and bandwidth to zone in on teaching and research.

### Course enrollment

- The integrative learning pathways that SCI opens up, in combination with its commitment to interdisciplinary learning, can serve to enliven disciplines and allow students with all types of academic backgrounds and abilities to better understand the “real-world” relevance of what they are studying. This can lead to increased course enrollment, as well as to students’ exposure to fields of study and potential career paths of which they would otherwise be unaware.

### Interdisciplinary collaboration

- In SCI, faculty are encouraged to team up on large-scope projects that require research and expertise in various areas of academic study.

## SCI in the Classroom

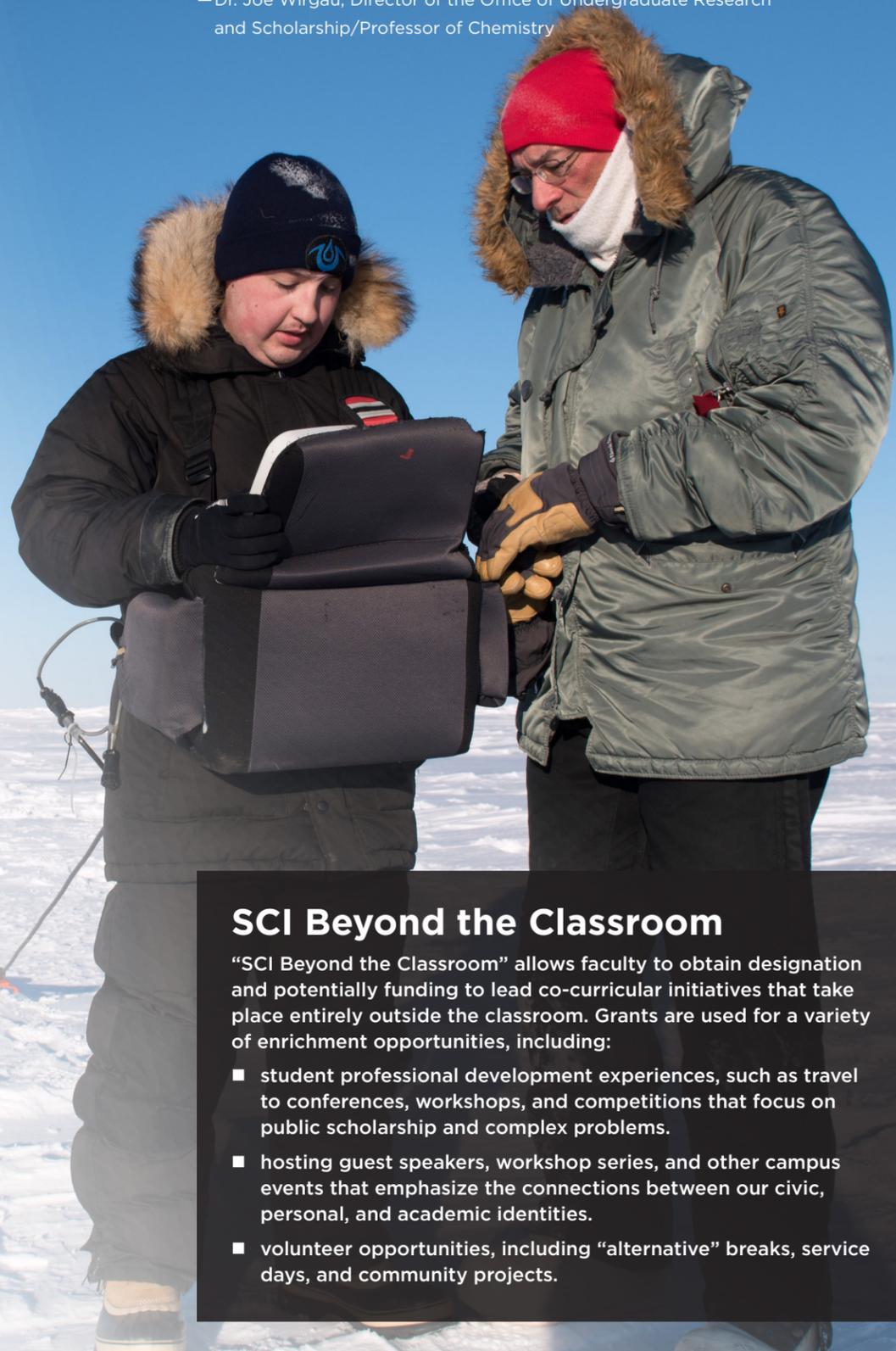
“SCI in the Classroom” allows faculty to obtain designation and potentially funding for service-learning or other forms of community-informed experiences happening in a credit-bearing course. These funds might be used for transportation costs to a field site, to purchase materials for a community-based project, or to support a student while she or he pursues an independent study.

## Getting Started

The SCI faculty application process is conducted entirely online. To submit an application to join the Initiative, or to find out more about SCI, click the “Faculty Site” icon on the left side of the SCI homepage:

[www.radford.edu/sci](http://www.radford.edu/sci)

“Inspired by each other, students and faculty are collaborating to tackle big questions that matter beyond the classroom. I am fortunate to work with students on one of these big questions: how to treat diseases such as transfusion-induced iron overload.”  
—Dr. Joe Wirgau, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship/Professor of Chemistry



## SCI Beyond the Classroom

“SCI Beyond the Classroom” allows faculty to obtain designation and potentially funding to lead co-curricular initiatives that take place entirely outside the classroom. Grants are used for a variety of enrichment opportunities, including:

- student professional development experiences, such as travel to conferences, workshops, and competitions that focus on public scholarship and complex problems.
- hosting guest speakers, workshop series, and other campus events that emphasize the connections between our civic, personal, and academic identities.
- volunteer opportunities, including “alternative” breaks, service days, and community projects.



“Courageous and relentlessly curious. These are two common characteristics of SCI students. They aren’t afraid to ask the big questions about poverty, about injustice, and turn their search for answers into real-world social action.”  
—Dr. Erin Webster Garrett  
SCI Director/Professor of English