

**Strengthening The Impact of Research (STIR)**  
**Request for Applications**

**Summary**

What: Applications open for *NC State Impact Scholars* (due by January 24, 2021).  
Who: Faculty, postdocs, & research staff from across the university can apply  
How: 10 -12 selected scholars attend 5 workshops on developing Broader Impacts  
When: Approximately one Tuesday a month in Spring 2021 from 3:00-4:30 pm  
What else: Scholars receive \$1,000 to design and complete a Broader Impact project

**Overview and Goal**

The *Strengthening The Impact of Research (STIR)* program seeks to enhance NC State's capacity to design and conduct research with broad impacts on society by creating and supporting the first cohort of *NC State Impact Scholars*. This group of 10-12 selected Impact Scholars will attend a series of five, 90-minute workshops in Spring 2021 to strengthen their capacity to create innovative research impacts on society and write more competitive grant proposals. Impact Scholars will also design and implement a project of their own, and conduct a Research Impacts workshop in their department. With support from the *Office of Outreach and Engagement*,<sup>1</sup> Impact Scholars will receive \$1,000 to support their project expenses.

**Importance**

Many researchers have high ambitions to contribute to society through scholarship and universities are being called to demonstrate the value of their research to society. Sponsor agencies also include how the research contributes to and benefits society<sup>1</sup> as a review criterion, and yet many researchers often struggle to formulate effective research impacts activities for their work<sup>2</sup>. The STIR program offers NC State faculty, postdocs, and research staff vital opportunities to explore the many dimensions of broader impacts and to strengthen their research impact capacity. The program will connect interdisciplinary researchers who are developing *integrated broader impacts programs* and help them develop the *broader impact identity* that leads to sustaining such work over their careers.

**Organizing Team**

Our team works across different colleges and programs and has focused on research impact on society by addressing interdisciplinary grand challenges, developing new ways to communicate scientific and engineering work to diverse audiences, and creating new techniques to develop research impact activities and broader impacts identities. Team members are (in alphabetical order): Celen Pasalar, College of Design; Jason Painter, College of Sciences; Jean Goodwin, CHASS & Leadership in Public Science cluster; Leah Bug, College of Engineering & College of Education; Paola Sztajn (team leader), College of Education; and Tiffany Barnes, College of Engineering.

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<sup>1</sup> Bornmann L. (2012). Measuring the societal impact of research: research is less and less assessed on scientific impact alone--we should aim to quantify the increasingly important contributions of science to society. *EMBO reports*, 13(8), 673–676. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1038/embo.2012.99>

<sup>2</sup> Skrip, M. M. (2015). Crafting and evaluating Broader Impact activities: A theory-based guide for scientists. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 13(5), 273–279. <https://doi.org/10.1890/140209>

## **Participation**

Participation is open to NC State faculty, postdocs, and research staff who engage in research and want to strengthen the impact of their scholarship. We anticipate selecting Impact Scholars from different colleges as well as different phases in their careers. We will strive to recruit and select a diverse group across disciplines, departments, colleges, career stages, race, and gender. The selection process will also seek to identify participants who have their own initial ideas and plans regarding research broader impacts and are, at the same time, open-minded about ways to improve their work.

## **Application Form**

Applications must be submitted through this [Google Form](#) by **January 24, 2021**.

## **Selection Criteria**

Impact Scholars will be selected to be a diverse set of researchers who have potential to make significant impacts on society and the world through their research and developing a broader impacts identity, with preference given for the following criteria:

- Commitment to societal impacts of research
- Focused, clearly expressed need for capacity development
- Contribution to diversity

## **Timeline and Requirements**

1. Applications due by **January 24, 2021**.
2. Selected Impact Scholars announced by early February 2021.
3. Scholars attend 5 workshops in Spring 2021 on topics such as understanding research impact identity, personal vision, existing resource, and project evaluation.
4. Workshops will be on **Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30**. **Participation in the workshops is required, so scholars must be available at this day/time**.
5. Current tentative dates for the workshops are: **Feb 16, March 9, March 30, April 20, and May 11 from 3 pm to 4:30 pm**--scholars must be available.
6. As part of the workshops, scholars develop their broader impact research statements and a project of their own.
7. Scholars start their projects in Summer or Fall 2021.
8. Scholars receive up to \$1,000 for project expenses. Funds can be used to support, for example, graduate students hourly work, travel to project location, or materials. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary.
9. Scholars report on their project by December 2021. Scholars also submit a progress report sharing continued developments in December 2022.
10. During 2021 (Spring or Fall) scholars share what they are learning with their departments through a suitable means (e.g., department colloquium, faculty meeting, workshop).

## **Questions?**

Contact us at [ncstate\\_impactscholars@ncsu.edu](mailto:ncstate_impactscholars@ncsu.edu)