



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Emerging Issues

IEI Digest



Director's Log | June 2018

When I was growing up, I looked forward to the regular DC Comics issues on “Bizarro World,” where Lex Luthor was good and Superman was bad—where everything was opposite.

This morning, I was thinking about a different kind of “bizarro” world, and what it would take for us to get there. Just imagine a state of North Carolina where:

- Every school graduate thinks seriously about service in the military or in their community;
- Contractors are worn out because they’ve been building too many front porches;
- People of every hue come together in a new or restored downtown space to calmly discuss the solution to a big, honking community controversy;
- There is a competition every year for the right to serve on the local parks and recreation board and the PTA can’t figure out what to do with all the volunteers.



But, honestly, that’s not as “bizarro” as we might think. There are communities across our state currently trying creative and interesting strategies that are getting their citizens excited, and making their communities more “connected.” We’ve heard of a few of them. We just want to find all of them . . .

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Registration for Emerging Issues Fall 2018 Forum Opens July 16!



We've never done this before, and we want you to be part of it! For the **first time**, the [Institute for Emerging Issues](#) is holding an Emerging Issues Forum outside of Raleigh, part of an effort to highlight the people and places developing innovative public policy ideas across our state. Registration for the Sept. 17 Forum in Asheville, "[ReCONNECT to Community](#)," opens July 16. The first event of our [ReCONNECT NC](#) initiative, this Forum will focus on reinvigorating North Carolina's civic engagement. Over the next three years, we'll hold six ReCONNECT NC forums across the state, each focusing on different aspects of reconnecting North Carolina civically, socially and economically.

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Call for Communities

As part of our [ReCONNECT NC](#) initiative, IEI is announcing a "[Call for Communities](#)." At IEI, we believe that local communities—with their traditions, willingness to work, and history of coming together in the toughest of times—can lead change and inspire others to become part of a more connected North Carolina. For each topic we address over the next three years, we will identify and collaborate with a cadre of communities—five places that have brought together diverse, energetic teams to implement new solutions that make them stronger and better equipped to succeed, and more "connected." We'll first be seeking communities who have done such work around civic engagement, the topic of our 2018 Fall Emerging Issues Forum, [ReCONNECT to Community](#), being held Sept. 17, 2018 in Asheville. If your community is interested in being part of this exciting initiative, please go to reconnectnc.org. Applications are due Sunday, July 22!

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College Student Establishes Institute of Politics

We caught up recently with Tanner Glenn, a recent graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill who started the [Institute of Politics](#) (IOP) while still a student at the university. As IEI gears up for our [Fall 2018 Emerging Issues Forum](#), happening Sept. 17 in Asheville, which will focus on civic engagement, we're interested in the civic engagement levels of young people across the state, which is why we're interested in people like Tanner Glenn! Glenn founded IOP as a nonpartisan, student-driven organization that aims to engage and inspire undergraduate students from across the political spectrum to pursue careers in politics and public service.

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EDPNC presents 'Energizing Rural North Carolina'

EDPNC will be presenting the event "[Energizing Rural North Carolina: The Building Blocks of Successful Economic Development](#)." The event will be held July 12-13 at The Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst, N.C. The event will showcase speakers and case studies that illustrate how five



pillars of prosperity—infrastructure, workforce, education, health and leadership—can shape successful rural economic development. Questions should be directed to [EDPNC Events Manager Kelly Dawson](#).

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Spotlight | Kylie Foley, IEI's Rural Faith Communities Fellow

Learn more about Kylie Foley, whose work with IEI's [Thriving Rural Communities](#) initiative keeps her traveling across the state as she works to help rural faith leaders identify and address the pressing needs of their communities. Kylie enjoys the way her job gives her a front row seat to watch IEI values put into action.

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Coming up in July on First in Future!

Be sure to tune in and subscribe to IEI's weekly program, "[First in Future: Where Emerging Ideas Take Flight](#)." Next month on the program, IEI Director Leslie Boney will talk with Nelle Hotchkiss, senior vice president of association services at North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives; Mo Green, executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation; and Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Listen to these podcasts and others by visiting emergingissues.org/podcast.

The First in Future podcast also airs on UNC-TV's North Carolina Channel each Tuesday at 8:30 P.M.! Check for shows and local channel listings here: <http://www.unc.tv/org/schedule/>.

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