



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Emerging Issues

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# IEI Digest

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Director's Log | September 2018

## Paying Flo Forward

I was dragging a load of mangled shutters and twisted aluminum siding to the street at my grandmother's house in New Hanover County this weekend when a neighbor came up to talk.

"How'd you do?" he asked.

"Not so bad. Siding. Shingles. Shutters. Power's back. Dumped the fridge. Moving Mom back in today. A lot better than most people."

We talked for twenty minutes about our stories of Hurricane Florence—about the evacuation, the storm, the aftermath. Smiles. Mutual concern. Relief. There was no acknowledgement that we hadn't spoken for a year. No talk of a long-running property line dispute. No political arguments. We were just talking and listening and sharing a moment.

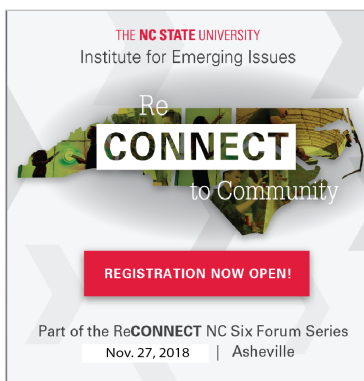
What if this post-disaster comradery — this collective spirit that turns us into our best selves—what if that didn't go away? What is it about a disaster that brings us together? And what would it take to make that the norm?



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**New date set for the Fall Emerging Issues Forum!**



Hurricane Florence postponed the Institute for Emerging Issues' "[ReCONNECT to Community](#)" forum, originally scheduled for Sept. 17 in Asheville. The forum is now scheduled for Nov. 27 at the [Renaissance Asheville Hotel](#). However, other than a different time and place, we'll have most of the same great speakers and panelists at the civic engagement-focused forum, which kicks off [ReCONNECT NC](#), IEI's broader, three-year initiative which will include six forums around the state, each focusing on a different type of civic, social and economic reconnection. If you have already registered, no need to do anything with your registration, we'll see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Davina Thrash at [dathrash@ncsu.edu](mailto:dathrash@ncsu.edu). If you have not registered, you're in luck! Given the later date, registration has been extended until Nov. 2. Please visit [emergingissues.org](http://emergingissues.org) to register!

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### IEI staffers help with Hurricane Florence recovery

Though the skies have cleared after Hurricane Florence, large areas of North Carolina are still cleaning up the destruction brought by the storm's wind and flooding. Much of North Carolina, especially eastern North Carolina, will be rebuilding for weeks to come. The help of volunteers is needed across the state. Earlier this month, several [Institute for Emerging Issues](#) staffers did their part to help and volunteered with the [Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina](#), where they collected donations for the [WRAL Disaster Recovery Food Drive](#). IEI employees also spent time at the [MERCY Disaster Response & Mission Support Center](#), where they helped members of the [United Methodist Church's N.C. Conference](#) collect and distribute supplies. Visit [emergingissues.org](http://emergingissues.org) to find out how you can help with Hurricane Florence recovery.

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### Who are your #FloHeroes?

Natural disasters have a way of showing us what's important, and showing us what truly makes a community—the people, the everyday folks who become “heroes” during times of distress by helping their neighbors how and when they can. We want to know who your **#FloHeroes** are—the people who helped your community, in little ways and large, during and after Hurricane Florence. Visit our [Facebook page](#) and share stories, photos and videos of your heroes, using the hashtag #FloHeroes. In the meantime, read about IEI staffer **Beth Hatcher's** #FloHeroes in this piece about how her small Harnett County community rose up and stood together during, and after, the storm.

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### IEI welcomes new Service Year Director Darryl Lester

The [Institute for Emerging Issues](#) recently welcomed our new Service Year Director **Darryl Lester** to the team. Bringing decades of experience in the higher education, philanthropy and volunteer fields, Lester calls his new position at IEI a culmination of his career's experiences. While at



IEI, he hopes to expand the number of people participating in Service Year, which he calls life-changing and eye-opening for those who take part. Learn more about Lester, our new motorcycle-riding, service-minded IEI teammate!

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#### **This month on First in Future**

This month on [First in Future](#), Institute for Emerging Issues Director Leslie Boney interviewed North Carolinians whose expertise and efforts will help with the rebuilding of the state after the devastation of Hurricane Florence. Check out these podcast episodes featuring [Andy Fox](#), co-director of NC State's Coastal Dynamics Design Lab and [Earline Middleton](#), VP of partner services and public policy at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. Listen to these podcasts and others by visiting iTunes or [emergingissues.org/podcast](http://emergingissues.org/podcast).

### **In Recent News | headlines and diverse perspectives**

[Reconnect to Community brings Institute for Emerging Issues forum to Asheville; event postponed](#)

Mountain Xpress | Sept. 13, 2018

[Emerging Issues forum in Asheville postponed due to hurricane](#)

WRAL TechWire | Sept. 12, 2018

[My grandmother was widowed with eight kids. Then the community rallied.](#)

News & Observer | Sept. 7, 2018

[Florence shows why people trust local news](#)

News & Observer | Sept. 25, 2018

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