



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Emerging Issues



IEI Digest



Director's Log | October 2018

In November of 1992, I was working as a reporter when a strange call came in.

"We'd like to talk to you about working in government."

I have to say I had never thought about it. And if I had, I would have dismissed it. I was getting good at pointing out what was wrong with government. So I told the caller that.

"Yeah," she said, "But if you come here you might actually be able to fix some of that stuff."

I jumped. Who wouldn't?

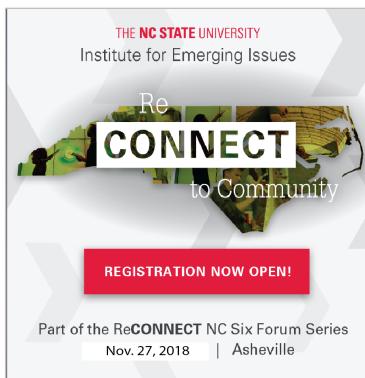
Well, a lot of people. If you look at the numbers it's getting harder and harder to attract young people into government jobs.

Are there things we could do to encourage more people to consider doing more that would fall into the category of "public service," whether as a full-time job or at least as a side hustle?

We're trying two things at the Institute for Emerging Issues to make it easier for folks to try.



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The NC State University Institute for Emerging Issues presents ReCONNECT to Community. Registration now open! Part of the ReCONNECT NC Six Forum Series Nov. 27, 2018 | Asheville

Not even a hurricane could stop the Institute for Emerging Issues' commitment to civic engagement, and we couldn't be more excited as we gear up for our RESCHEDULED (due to Hurricane Florence) **Nov. 27 forum [ReCONNECT to Community](#)**. The forum, which will feature keynote speakers like New York Times columnist [David Brooks](#) and community organizer [Tru Pettigrew](#), kicks off IEI's larger, three-year [ReCONNECT NC](#) initiative, which will feature six forums held around the state, each examining a different aspect of social, civic and economic reconnection. This is a departure from IEI's historical, Raleigh-centric one-forum-a-year structure. WHY is IEI innovating its forum model NOW? Find out from IEI Director **Leslie Boney** and IEI Policy and Program Manager **Maggie Woods**.

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Rural Opportunity Institute

Kicking off IEI's [ReCONNECT NC](#) initiative, our upcoming [ReCONNECT to Community](#) forum being held Nov. 27 in Asheville, is more intimate and interactive than forums of the past. One way this innovation will be on display: Five communities from around the state have been chosen to speak at the forum about how they're innovating and increasing civic engagement in their communities. This month, we caught up with the [Rural Opportunity Institute](#), an [Edgecombe County](#)-based initiative that educates and trains communities about how to deal with and overcome the effects of childhood trauma. "Trauma is a baseline for a community's health; It's something that unites us all," said **Vichi Jagannathan**, one of the co-founders of the Institute.

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Check in with KidsReadyNC

Six months have passed since IEI chose four North Carolina communities to participate in our [KidsReadyNC](#) program, which aids communities in strengthening their early childhood systems. We checked in with the folks in **Chowan, Randolph, Catawba and Rockingham Counties** to see how their work's progressing, what challenges they're facing and if their goals have shifted. IEI's Assistant Director **Pat Cronin** leads the efforts and sees KidsReadyNC as playing to IEI's strength in pulling people out of their working "silos," connecting them to each other and to other resources, and promoting collaborative action.

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Spotlight: Greg Hedgepeth, IEI's new communications director

Recently, IEI welcomed new communications director **Greg Hedgepeth** to our team! A native North Carolinian, Hedgepeth is returning to North Carolina after time spent in South Florida where he served as the chief communications officer/ director of marketing, communications and technology for the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Florida Atlantic University. Hedgepeth has served in the field of higher education and marketing communications for over 10 years, holding a number of leadership roles. A native of Halifax County,



Hedgepeth comes to IEI with a passion for uplifting all of North Carolina's communities and will drive IEI's efforts to market and publicize our upcoming [ReCONNECT NC](#) forums, as well as IEI's many other initiatives

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This month on First in Future

Be sure to tune in and subscribe to IEI's weekly podcast, "[First in Future: Where Emerging Ideas Take Flight.](#)"

This month on the program, we completed our series, "Going Against the Flo," featuring some of the people who are leading the state's hurricane recovery efforts, with an interview of [Dr. Sharon Paynter](#), who's leading ECU's recovery efforts.

We also talked with [Lucy Russell](#), student leader of the UNC-CH Institute of Politics about how the organization is getting people with different political views to talk to each other. We also spoke with [Seth Saeugling](#) of the Rural Opportunity Institute in Edgecombe County about how the organization is bringing together people across the community to work on fighting trauma.

Coming up soon: Our first-ever Halloween special episode, AND our 100th episode. Who could possibly be our guest for that?

In Recent News | headlines and diverse perspectives

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News & Observer | Oct. 7, 2018

[As 'news deserts' widen across America, communities and civic engagement fray](#)

THINKPROGRESS | Oct. 17, 2018

['Vote Together' celebrates civic engagement in Greenville](#)

WNCT9 | Oct. 24, 2018

[Hurricane Florence rapid recovery loan program launches](#)

New Bern Sun Journal | Oct. 6, 2018

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