

Happy Holidays from IEI!



IEI Digest

Director's Log | December 2018

Hot New Song: "The 12 Numbers of IEI"



I was reading yesterday about the most popular new holiday song of the past 30 years, "All I Want for Christmas" by Mariah Carey. The story is that it took her 15 minutes to write. It has earned her, so far, more than \$60 million in royalties (much of that from cover versions – happiest one [here](#); strangest from [Bowling for Soup](#) on their "Merry Flipping Christmas" album.)

So as I looked back on the work of the Institute for Emerging Issues over the past year and looked forward to our work next year, one financial model seemed to be writing a viral Christmas song, heavy on public policy, building off of our work on "reconnection."

Surprisingly, despite the obvious lack of songs that fit that niche, and despite my following the Carey model and only spending 15 minutes writing it, record producers and reviewers* have not been impressed with my efforts.

I'm sharing it with you anyway. Call it "The 12 Numbers of IEI." [READ MORE](#)



<https://youtu.be/CY1hk1Sad0c>



Register for the Feb. 11 ReCONNECT Rural and Urban forum!

Have you registered for our upcoming [ReCONNECT Rural and Urban](#) forum? The second in our [ReCONNECT NC](#) series, the forum (being held Feb. 11 in Raleigh!) will focus on innovative partnerships between rural, urban and suburban communities helping move the state forward. Learn more and register for the forum at emergingissues.org!



Scholarship Opportunities for Rural and Urban Forum

Scholarships (free tickets) are available to increase geographic, demographic and economic representation at our Rural and Urban Forum. Thanks to a specific contributor to our fund, some scholarships are reserved exclusively for residents living in Eastern North Carolina (i.e. counties along and to the east of I-95), especially those living in the region's most economically distressed counties. For more information about our scholarships, please visit (<https://iei.ncsu.edu/reconnectnc/ru-scholarships/>) or contact IEI staff at 919-515-7741 for more details.

IEI gets a new employee!



After serving as an [AmeriCorps VISTA](#) with IEI over the past year, we're excited to announce that Paul Nolan has accepted a full-time position with us as a LGFCU (Local Government Federal Credit Union) Fellow. Paul, a graduate of NC State University, will be adding his skills to our [Service Year NC](#) program, as well as helping with upcoming forums in our [ReCONNECT NC](#) series. Welcome, Paul!



Spotlight: Sarah Langer Hall, IEI's senior policy and program manager

Sarah Langer Hall's nickname around the [Institute for Emerging Issues](#)' offices is "Speedy," because when you see her, she's usually darting around at a frenetic pace attempting to accomplish around 10 tasks at once—typically, she completes about 11. Because working hard's nothing new for Hall, who lifted herself from a working class background in upstate New York through hard work, tenacity and grit.

Hall, a senior policy and program manager here at IEI, is the lead on our upcoming [ReCONNECT Rural and Urban](#) forum, the second in our [ReCONNECT NC](#) series, which will include six forums over the course of three years held throughout the state, each examining a different aspect of social, civic and economic reconnection.

Learn more about Hall in this month's staff spotlight! [READ MORE](#)



Investing in the Institute for Emerging Issues and Its Mission to Reconnect North Carolina

The Institute for Emerging Issues depends on private support for the majority of its budget. Gifts, along with registration payments from Emerging Issues Forum attendees, make the Emerging Issues Forums in the ReCONNECT NC series possible. Won't you join us in reconnecting North Carolina?

Ways of Giving:

- Make a gift to support the ReCONNECT NC series of Emerging Issues Forums. Corporate sponsorships for ReCONNECT NC are available starting at \$5,000; and we welcome support gifts of any amount.
- Make a gift to benefit the February 2019 Reconnect Rural and Urban Emerging Issues Forum. Corporate sponsorships for Reconnect Rural and Urban are available starting at \$2,500; and we welcome support gifts of any amount.
- Make it possible for a North Carolinian to attend Reconnect Rural and Urban with a registration scholarship. Many North Carolinians cannot afford the \$250 registration cost of attending ReCONNECT NC Emerging Issues Forums. Donors like you make up this gap by giving registration

scholarships. Each registration scholarship for an attendee with financial need is made possible by a gift of \$250.

- Support the Institute for Emerging Issues by making an unrestricted gift to IEI of any amount.

For More Information: Contact Tony Reevy, Director of Development, Institute for Emerging Issues, North Carolina State University, Campus Box 7406, Raleigh, NC 27695-7406. 919-515-3543. awreevy@ncsu.edu.

[Donate Today!](#)



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 podcast, we talked with Executive Director at the Kenan Institute for the Arts, [Corey Madden](#), about that organization's participation in our Nov. 27 ReCONNECT to Community forum. We also spoke with Chief Content Officer [Travis Mitchell](#) of UNC-TV. Another podcast featured president of the Golden LEAF Foundation, [Dan Gerlach](#). Over the holidays tune in as we sit down with Reginald Bean, Vice President of Culture, Engagement & Stewardship for Coca-Cola Consolidated and Kel Landis, co-founder and partner at Plexus Capital. Listen to these episodes and more at emergingissues.org!



Help someone have a seat at the (forum) ask about our Buy One, Give One offer!

In order to [ReCONNECT NC](#), IEI needs to hear from many different voices. What better way to give back this holiday season than helping someone have "a seat at the table" by becoming a forum scholarship sponsor? We are looking for individuals who are interested in purchasing a ticket for themselves and an additional ticket to bring a voice that may otherwise be left out of this important discussion. As our thank you, IEI will recognize your

contribution during the Forum. Interested in sponsoring additional scholarships? Please contact IEI Development Director Tony Reevy, (919) 515-3543, awreevy@ncsu.edu.

In Recent News

[Aiming at success: MAIN Summit targets problems facing minority male students](#)

The Daily Reflector | Dec. 16, 2018

[A Boost for Young, Diverse Farmers](#)

The Atlantic | Dec. 16, 2018

[2018 Business Person of the Year: Sepi Saidi](#)

Triangle Business Journal | Dec. 14, 2018

[How Can Communities Help their Residents Reconnect?](#)

UNC School of Government | Dec. 14, 2018

[From an urban journalist: Another tired stereotype of rural America](#)

The Daily Yonder | Dec. 18, 2018



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