

## **INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING ISSUES MONTHLY DIGEST - AUGUST 2020**

August 28, 2020



### **A Word from the Director | August 2020**

#### **A Few Sips from an Oasis of Optimism**

If we are to believe the predictions, we are heading toward a 10 week napalming of negative campaign ads: from radio and TV, in print, and everywhere on social media. There's a decent shot that the onslaught is likely to leave us with the feeling that no matter who wins, we lose. Beginning March 19, I had a 16 week seat on the front row of a show with some of North Carolina's best thinkers and doers, the people who are doing the day-to-day work of getting us through this crisis. Our "Connecting in Crisis" webinars were a weekly witness to the power of realistic optimism.

[Read More »](#)



### **BAND-NC Grant Application Closes Aug 31**

Our BAND-NC grant program has already announced its first round of grantees and we want to ensure more programs and counties are working to increase the number of people with internet in their homes. The application deadline is Monday, Aug 31! APPLY NOW!

[Apply Now »](#)



## **BAND-NC Announced First Grantees**

On August 18 IEI announced its first round of grant recipients for Building a New Digital Economy in NC (BAND-NC). Eleven North Carolina counties will each receive a \$5,000 grant to help bridge the digital divide in their communities.

### **The list of programs and counties include:**

Alamance, Guilford, and Forsyth Counties  
(Piedmont Triad Regional Council)

Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties  
(Land of Sky Regional Council)

Carteret County  
(Carteret County Economic Development Foundation, Inc.)

Craven County  
(Peletah Ministries)

McDowell County  
(Connect McDowell)

Watauga County  
(Watauga County Schools)

[Learn More »](#)



## **Register today for ReCONNECT to Move Forward**

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) is looking at how NC can move forward to a better future. Join us for one or all of our 3-part virtual meeting series called ReCONNECT to Move Forward. Each interactive meeting will create a space for national, state, and local leaders and community members to critically analyze and discuss what is working well and acknowledge what is not, with the goal of developing a set of near- and long-term recommendations that can help us move forward, together.

[Register Today »](#)

## Meet Our Mental Health and Well-Being Community Cohort



As part of the ReCONNECT to Move Forward meeting series, the Institute for Emerging Issues chose six communities to tell their story regarding how they are actively working to address mental health challenges and near-term needs while building support systems to thrive in a post-pandemic world.

[Read More »](#)

## IEI Concludes Summer School Series



IEI's Summer School Series offered a number of online discussions, training, and workshops that aimed to help communities work better together to identify challenges, problem-solve, and connect to resources. This virtual Summer School Series gave IEI and participants an opportunity to learn first-hand about the challenges communities are facing right now across our state and it created a space to share innovative solutions, best practices and what can be learned from what's not working.

IEI feels this virtual series is just the beginning of what can be learned when we bring people together from across the state with the common goal of connecting and being better together. We invite you to stay connected for more virtual learning opportunities with IEI. Many thanks to the number of participants who engaged throughout the four-part capacity building series.

[Read more »](#)



## Connect and Engage to Ensure the Future of Our State

If this crisis has shown us anything, it's shown the gaps and disparities within our communities. It's shown us that there is now more than ever a declining social trust, eroding faith in public institutions, and an all time rise in out-of-work and isolated North Carolinians. IEI has launched a bold community-driven campaign called "Connect and Engage." It's a call to action for North Carolinians to come together to be forward-thinking, build capacity and have real conversations across differences to ensure a future for each and every person that calls NC home. TAKE A MOMENT TO CONNECT AND ENGAGE WITH IEI.

[Connect Now »](#)

NC STATE UNIVERSITY  Institute for Emerging Issues

**FIRST IN FUTURE**



## First in Future Podcast

Through our First in Future Zoomcast and Podcast series IEI continues to evolve as a learning organization. Each week, we talk with business leaders, elected officials, researchers, people working bottom up and top down to make North Carolina great. We hope you'll use their thinking to jumpstart your thinking about our state – where it is and where we might go together.

We also want to hear what issues you'd like to learn more about. Contact us at [emergingissues@ncsu.edu](mailto:emergingissues@ncsu.edu) with your ideas. Take a moment to recap or catch up on what you may have missed this month.

[Episode 215: COVID-19 and Child Trauma: Where do we go from here?](#)

[Episode 214: First in Future: Wit Tuttell](#)

[Episode 213: First in Future: Amy Huffman and Dawn Gibson](#)

[Episode 212: How Can K-12 Learning Be Better This Fall?](#)

[Episode 211: First in Future: Director of Rural Forward NC Calvin Allen](#)

[Listen and Subscribe »](#)

---

## Partner Spotlights

### Take the NC Broadband Survey

COVID-19 has exposed to the world the challenges and inequities the digital divide causes for those without access to broadband or the tools and technologies to use it. Reliable internet access is crucial for getting North Carolina back on its feet so that students can learn, teachers can teach, businesses can grow and communities can connect. Having a more comprehensive look at North Carolina's speed and need is critical when building strategies for getting homes connected. To further those efforts, the Broadband Infrastructure Office at the N.C. Department of Information Technology is gathering information on locations without adequate internet access and speeds in the state through a survey called the N.C. Broadband Survey.

The survey takes about five-minutes to complete and is available in both English and Spanish.

[Take the survey](#)

### 2020 LNC VIRTUAL Road Tour Featuring The Institute For Emerging Issues

This year, we are partnering again with the Institute for Emerging Issues as we explore how we, as leaders, can use our time, talent, and energy to support our regional communities. Have you ever wondered what your local regional councils of government are working on and how you could support them? These regional events will explore opportunities to be mobilized within your region of North Carolina. The event will consist of a presentation from the Institute for Emerging Issues and a local regional council of government, followed by breakout sessions to discuss your region and how you can best engage.

[Learn more and register](#)

### Wilson Forward Annual Meeting (Virtual)

Each year, Wilson Forward hosts an Annual Meeting for local partners and community members on the second Thursday of October. This meeting is designed to focus on specific challenges and opportunities presented to the Wilson community while also highlighting the work of many existing partnerships and collaborative efforts dedicated to making Wilson a great place to work and live. This years speakers include Leslie Boney, Director, Institute for Emerging Issues and Vice Provost, Outreach and Engagement NC State University. Registration Opens Tuesday, September 1st

[Learn more](#)

The Institute for Emerging Issues

 Facebook  Twitter  Instagram  LinkedIn