

# FEBRUARY 8, 2022 EMERGING ISSUES FORUM RALEIGH

*"Advancing Together:  
Enhancing NC's Workforce Through Educational Attainment"*

## The Challenge

As our economy grows, the vast majority of new jobs will require more than a high school diploma. Today, less than half of North Carolinians ages 25-44 are ready for this work. As set by myFutureNC, the current goal is 2 million North Carolinians with a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030. But absent intentional action, we face a significant gap between the skills and experience that employers will need and what the state's labor force will be able to provide. Even more worrisome, economically disadvantaged and non-White workers, the segments of the workforce growing fastest, are particularly less equipped for this future. And this was before the pandemic.

## The Opportunity

The 2022 Emerging Issues Forum will bring together local, state and national leaders to call attention to this attainment gap and to the impact of the pandemic on efforts to close it. Because education is fundamentally local in character, a particular focus will be on spurring effective action at the community and regional levels across the state. The event will showcase promising practices that help all students—younger and older, White and non-White, richer and poorer—to get ready for, gain access to and successfully complete postsecondary educational opportunities. The importance of effective collaboration will be highlighted, especially the role of the business community in promoting curriculum alignment, offering work-based learning and advocating for a competitive workforce.

## Moving Ideas to Action

A central goal of the Forum and a series of regional meetings afterwards is to promote local-level action that boosts educational attainment levels, especially for lower-income and students of color. This will happen by lifting up effective practices, policy supports and by offering capacity-building workshops. And following a practice honed over the past three years, IEI will select, highlight and support the work of a cohort of five communities from across the state that are moving the needle for these students.



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Contact: IEI Development  
Director Tony Reevy at  
[awreevy@ncsu.edu](mailto:awreevy@ncsu.edu) or  
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# The History

*"Education is the foundation for all we do in life, it shapes who we are and what we aspire to be. Creativity fuels innovation, and it's what all states should strive to instill in the next generations."*

*- Honorable James B. Hunt, Jr.*



The Institute's roots reach back to 1986, when Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and NC State Chancellor Bruce Poulton convened the first Emerging Issues Forum. The Forum is an annual, one or two-day gathering of international, national and statewide thought leaders and stakeholders who discuss challenges and opportunities for North Carolina, looking to build consensus around specific recommendations for further collective action.

IEI serves North Carolina as a "unique convener," regularly gathering leaders from business, nonprofit organizations, government and education to discuss and develop action steps designed to enhance North Carolina's future prosperity. As a unit of NC State University, IEI advances the University's research, service and outreach contributions statewide.

***Interested in helping NC and supporting our February 8, 2022 Educational Attainment Forum through corporate or foundation sponsorship?***

SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS	BRONZE \$2,500+	SILVER \$5,000+	GOLD \$10,000+	PLATINUM \$25,000+
Speaking opportunity at Forum				✓
Signage at Forum			✓	✓
Sponsor designation in Forum marketing materials		✓	✓	✓
Formal recognition at Forum		✓	✓	✓
Logo on website	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sponsor designation in digital and print materials	✓	✓	✓	✓
Registration to Forum	2	4	6	8



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