

**Media Contact:**

Nan Sanseverino

Communications Director

nan_sanseverino@ncsu.edu | (919) 515-3556**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Winners of Six BB&T Discovery Forums Announced***Young social entrepreneurs recognized for local innovations across North Carolina*

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University announced winners of the six BB&T Discovery Forums held across the state this fall. Sponsored by BB&T, the Discovery Forums are designed to inform, inspire, and connect young social entrepreneurs (ages 18-30) and local leaders in North Carolina who share a strong interest in social entrepreneurship that can positively impact the community. Local event partners included Duke Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative, UNCW Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Wake Forest University, and Lenoir-Rhyne University.

The Discovery Forums featured a series of five-minute pitches from young innovators who aim to make their communities better places to live, work, and play, with audience members voting to choose the top three presenters. The 18 winning teams will convene for a special Leadership Symposium in Raleigh in spring 2017 for intensive leadership development training, networking, and the chance to compete for a venture prize of up to \$10,000 in underwriting from BB&T.

The top three semi-finalist teams from each Forum are:

Triangle Discovery Forum

- ReCity (Rob Shields and Tucker Stevens)
- Supervize (Sunny Su and John Willard)
- Embrace (Zach Ao, Andy Wang, Edward Liang, and Thomas Li)

Wilmington Discovery Forum

- Fecal Finders (Mary Jaskowiak)
- PK Clean (Joel Mauldin and Scott Davis)
- Turnip Learning (Sarah Ritter and Andres Lulch)

Boone Discovery Forum

- The absurdity of pooping in potable water (Emil De Jong and Kevin Burgess)
- Creative Unbound (Ethan Downs, Sage Buccafurri and Mieszko Kwiatkowski)
- Roots (Matt Zothner)

Greenville Discovery Forum

- SyllabEye (Cameron Jennings and Mikal Chavez)
- TRACIT (Chelsey Solar)
- Infinite Limits Tutoring (Matthew McCall, Katie Solano, Brenda Vasquez, and Magus Pereira)

John F.A.V. Cecil, *Chair* | Richard D. Mahoney, *Interim Director*

Triad Discovery Forum

- Resilience Project (Jacob Tietelbaum)
- GRPWRK (Ashley Johnson, Paris Williford, Brittney Isbell, and Hali Shepard)
- Fresh Food Haven (David Deerin and Clay Barnett)

Hickory Discovery Forum

- E.A.T. (Jwan Underwood)
- Social Sunday (Jerry Hamby and Ryan Hoffman)
- The Yarn Tree (Sarah Chase)

The Discovery Forums are part of IEI's wider efforts to promote youth engagement and conversations that enhance the state's future economic prosperity. For more information on the BB&T Discovery Forum Series, the winning social enterprises, and the BB&T Leadership Symposium, please visit emergingissues.org/df.

About the Institute for Emerging Issues:

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) is a public policy “connect, think and do” tank housed on North Carolina State University's Centennial Campus, charged with connecting people and resources from all sectors and regions of North Carolina in an effort to ensure our state's future economic competitiveness. For more information on IEI's work, please visit emergingissues.org.

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