Media contact: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ginny Inman, Communication Associate

(919) 515.9254

[ginny\_inman@ncsu.edu](mailto:ginny_inman@ncsu.edu)

**INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING ISSUES TO RELEASE MANUFACTURING REPORT**

Report to Highlight Education Alignment, Rebranding and Community Networks

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) will release its Manufacturing Report as a virtual e-doc on April 10, 2014. The document will showcase:

* Statewide efforts to align manufacturing businesses with North Carolina’s educational systems.
* Statewide work to rebrand manufacturing as a viable career option and strengthen community networks.
* How North Carolina communities are poised to take advantage of opportunities modern manufacturing holds.

The Manufacturing Report is the culmination of IEI’s year-long and state-wide program of work around the timely and crucial issue of manufacturing in North Carolina.

Manufacturing is in the midst of a generational change. Evolving technologies, rising wage levels and transportation costs, as well as other factors, are forcing companies to reexamine where they produce. Changes in global markets and the onset of the Great Recession have posed economic development challenges. These challenges are felt deeply in North Carolina, where output and productivity in manufacturing is increasing, while employment is declining.

In 2013, to address these challenges, IEI held a statewide Emerging Issues Forum, @ManufacturingWorks, bringing together thought leaders and community experts to discuss how to create the conditions for prosperity in manufacturing in North Carolina. Over the past year, IEI has been working to focus policymakers on the opportunities for business and job creation in next generation manufacturing. With the help of statewide partners at the NC Association of County commissioners, NC Cooperative Extension, and the NC Community College System, IEI co-hosted community forums -- bringing together over 400 manufacturers, educators, city and county officials and other community leaders -- on how to better align the needs of manufacturing businesses with North Carolina’s educational systems. Three themes emerged: rebranding, work-based learning, and community networks. To connect these communities around the themes, IEI held a Google Hangout discussion with Carol King of Mass-TEC, Carla Whitlock from Apprenticeship Carolina, and Dan Swinney of the Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council.

The Manufacturing Report synthesizes the knowledge and strategic recommendations gathered from across the state. It will help North Carolina position itself to tackle the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities in manufacturing.

For more information, see [our manufacturing toolkit](http://iei.ncsu.edu/manufacturing-toolkit/?utm_source=Press%20Release&utm_medium=Press%20Release&utm_campaign=Manufacturing%20Report).

####

**ABOUT IEI**

IEI is a think-and-do tank at NC State University, focused on tackling big issues that affect North Carolina’s future growth and prosperity. From energy, to fiscal modernization, to improving our systems of higher education, IEI takes the lead in convening state leaders in business, higher education and government to address these issues early to prepare for future challenges and opportunities. To learn more about IEI, please visit www.emergingissues.org