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**Jack Cecil named Board Chair of the Institute for Emerging Issues**

Today, at the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) meeting of its National Advisory Board, Jack Cecil, president and chief executive officer of Biltmore Farms in Asheville, was named board chair following the announcement that former Governor Jim Hunt was stepping down from the position of chair.

*Jack Cecil, president and executive officer of Biltmore Farms in Asheville*

“Jack will be a great leader for IEI,” said Governor Hunt. “As vice chair of the Board and chair of the policy and program committee, his energy, business insights and global perspective strengthened and expanded the reach of IEI. I’m thrilled by his willingness to assume the role of Board chair with this wonderful organization. As I spend more time enjoying my retirement, the future is bright for IEI.”

“I am honored and humbled to follow Governor Hunt in this role,” Cecil said. “One of my goals as chair will be to further expand IEI’s reach in the business community across the state, as we engage North Carolinians in efforts to enhance our state’s competitiveness.”

Cecil joined the Board in 2005, and has served as the vice chair since 2010. He is an active business and community leader. Cecil has been involved with multiple boards and commissions over the years, including the UNC Board of Governors, the NC Biotechnology Center, the NC Arboretum and the Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina. Cecil received his M.I.M. from The American Graduate School of International Management and B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“IEI is an award winning, internationally recognized organization. The Board was unanimous in its agreement that Jack was the right person to succeed Governor Hunt as the next chair of the Board. His passion for IEI’s mission and his wealth of experience make him the perfect person to lead us as we advise the staff led by Anita Brown-Graham,” said Carlos E. Sanchez, chair of the Advisory Board’s nominating committee.

IEI was founded in 2002 to support North Carolina’s leaders and citizens across sectors, regions and perspectives as they work to build the state’s competitiveness in the face of a relentless pace of change. The organization continued NC State’s practice of convening an annual Emerging Issues Forum, begun in 1986. Governor Hunt has served as chair of IEI’s National Advisory Board since its creation.

The Emerging Issues Forum is an annual event that brings together people from around the state, nation and world to discuss ways North Carolina can respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by a single topic. The Forum is the most visible of IEI’s year-round programs, with attendance over 1,300 at the 29th Emerging Issues Forum in February 2014. IEI has expanded its work to provide direct support of local communities, business leaders, elected officials and others as they develop plans and programs. In the past year, IEI has engaged over 50,000 people in the state.

“We thank Governor Hunt for his years of leadership to the Institute for Emerging Issues, even into his retirement. I am pleased he has agreed to remain on the board,” said NC State Chancellor Randy Woodson. “Jack Cecil is an excellent choice to follow as chair of the IEI board. I know he will build on the foundation Governor Hunt created. Jack has a demonstrated talent for growing businesses and organizations and I look forward to working with him as he accepts this leadership position.”

In other governance changes, board members Michael Marsicano of Charlotte and Lynn Lail of Hickory are rotating off the board, and Elizabeth City Mayor, Joseph Peel will join the board.

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