**Director's Log: April**

When looking to the future of work, it becomes clear that teachers, professors, and mentors need to be preparing more and more people—of all ages, from every background—to think their way around problems. Making that pivot as educators requires a number of approaches, and I think there’s a good case that the Institute for Emerging Issues is taking those on. **But what do we need to do to solve the next generation of challenges?**

[Read More >>]

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**What Does North Carolina's 21st Century Superhero Look Like?**

Just in time for National Superhero Day! We've extended our First in Future contest - to design the new superhero of tomorrow, **The Versatillion** - by one week! On our [First in Future](https://www.ncsu.edu/iei) podcast, John Hardin described his ideal superhero: a superhero of adaptability, able to invent new businesses faster than a speeding bullet, able to leap between disciplines in a single bound, strong enough to gain new skills as the economy changes! We want to hear from you—We need a transformer for the 21st century, and we think you can design what that superhero looks like. [Submit your entry](https://www.ncsu.edu/iei) by May 5, 2017, for your
chance at the grand prize: a complimentary ticket to the 2018 Emerging Issues Forum!

We're also looking for a new class of IEI Super Donors! Find out how you can contribute to IEI at the **Solon of State, Superhero or Super Squad levels!**

### On the Blog

IEI's top-notch policy team is hard at work across the state! Keep up with their travels and their efforts to make North Carolina a better place to live, work and play on our blog. This month, Rural Faith Communities Fellow Kylie Foley visits **St. John UMC in Avon to see their "tiny food pantry"** firsthand, and Policy Manager Sarah Langer Hall shares her role in helping to develop a statewide **All-Payer Claims Database.**

### This Month on First in Future!

Be sure to tune in and subscribe to IEI's new weekly podcast series, **"First in Future: Where Emerging Ideas Take Flight."** This week, IEI Director Leslie Boney talks with Isothermal Community College President and former Lieutenant Governor **Walter Dalton** about how community colleges are thinking about their work going forward, and what that means for all of us. Catch up on recent podcasts, including a conversation with Movement of Youth President and CEO **Atrayus Goode**, by visiting [emergingissues.org/podcast](http://emergingissues.org/podcast).

### In Recent News:

- **Reflecting on 4 Years at the Wilson Chamber**
  The Wilson Times | April 23, 2017

- **NC Superintendent Announces Reading Program, New Early Learning Position**
  WRAL | April 3, 2017

- **NC Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Communities Recognized as National Pacesetters**
  Wilkes Journal-Patriot | March 17, 2017

- **Wilmington Student Wins First Place at Business Competition**
  Wilmington Star News | March 22, 2017

- **Student Notebook: Achievers**
  News & Record | March 29, 2017
**The Social Suite:**

IEI Fellow Maggie's in DC for the ServiceYear Action Summit, representing ServiceYearNC! Full partnership details: [https://t.co/DFRWh4IQoQ](https://t.co/DFRWh4IQoQ)

— IEI (@emergingissues) [March 28, 2017](https://t.co/DFRWh4IQoQ)

@sarahmlanger checks out hydroponic farming in Robeson County

— Leslie Boney (@lboney) [April 3, 2017](https://t.co/DFRWh4IQoQ)