

## **INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING ISSUES MONTHLY DIGEST - FEBRUARY 2019**

February 28, 2019



### **A Word from the Director | February 2019**

Holy moly February 11 was an exciting day! It was great to welcome 500-600 of you to Raleigh in person to the Emerging Issues Forum, ReCONNECT Rural and Urban, and another boatload (shipload?) of you via livestream. THANK YOU to all of you and to our terrific sponsors!

The folks who were there got to know each other at their tables, listened to speakers ranging from the Governor, cabinet officials and the legislature to local elected officials. They heard from leaders from the private, public, nonprofit and education sectors, and worked through some of the key issues facing both rural and urban areas, including building affordable, quality housing, making economic development work, growing workers with relevant skills, improving transportation, marshalling their cultural assets, addressing health care concerns and others.

It was an inspiring day, but for my money the real stars were five groups from across the state that have come together across rural and urban lines to work on projects that are in their mutual self-interest.

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## ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Forum ReCap



If you missed out on our Rural and Urban Forum on February 11, take a moment and visit our recaps page.

There were two key messages for this forum, the first was to examine the assumption we have about rural and urban communities that are reinforcing the narrative of a rural and urban divide. We also wanted participants to hear that rural and urban areas are not at war, in fact they are working together every day on things ranging from economic development to transportation initiatives, workforce development to tackling mental health and opioid use. All sorts of connections and collaborations are going on between rural and urban communities.

[Read more »](#)



## Meet Molly Sheenan, Service Year NC VISTA

Meet Molly Sheenan, a recent NC State University graduate who's currently serving with the Service Year NC VISTA Program for the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI). Molly is a hardworking and passionate individual with experience in research, leadership, and service.

Molly is super excited to be working with IEI in a number of capacities, especially with our Text, Talk, Future initiative, which is what initially drew her to apply for a VISTA position.

[Read more »](#)



## IEI in the Community

On February 22, The Wayne County Chamber of Commerce hosted their education luncheon titled 'Making the Connection' Investing Early in Our Future.

The luncheon focused on the connection between early childhood investment and our future workforce and local/state economy.

Keynoting the luncheon was our very own Dr. Patrick Cronin, Assistant Director for Policy & Programs. Dr. Cronin spoke on the influences on a child's development and how these issues effect workforce and economic development in communities.

Dr. Cronin also joined a panel with Charlie Ivey, Retired, Partnership for Children of Wayne County, Adam Sotak, Public Engagement Director, NC Child and Dr. David T. Tayloe, Jr., Goldsboro Pediatrics, P.A. where they discussed further these issues and how they impact our state and Wayne County.



## Service Year and Opportunity Youth Reception and Conversation

Join the Institute for Emerging Issues, Service Year NC, Service Year Alliance, Public Allies NC, Movement of Youth and the NC Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service on March 13, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Frontier Building, 800 Park Office Drive, Research Triangle Park for our Service Year and Opportunity Youth Reception and Conversation.

Come learn more about Service Year NC and how you can take advantage of a paid opportunity to develop real world skills through hands on service. Also learn how Service Year NC is connecting Opportunity Youth and more young people of color to these same opportunities.

This event will highlight organizations that are engaging opportunity youth in service and tell the stories of opportunity youth that have benefited from a year of service.

[RSVP to attend »](#)

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## First in Future

**FIRST IN FUTURE**



First in Future: Where Emerging Ideas Take Flight is a podcast that connects you with people thinking big thoughts about the future of North Carolina.

We invite you to listen to our latest episode with [Director of Community and Economic Engagement at Elizabeth City State University Russ Haddad](#) and some of our earlier February episodes.

[Episode 115: First in Future: Growing Outdoor Partnership Sophie Paulos & Noah Wilson](#)

[Episode 114: First in Future: North Carolina State University Dr. Mitch Renkow](#)

[Episode 113: First in Future: University of North Carolina School of Government Brian Dabson](#)

[Listen »](#)

## IEI IN THE NEWS

The Wilson Times

[Wilson seeks to bridge urban-rural divide](#)

Carolina Country

[Plugging in to Community](#)

Carolina Journal Online

[Forums will reconnect North Carolinians](#)

WRAL TechWIRE

[Rural and Urban Americans are more similar than they think](#)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**October 15, 2019**

**ReCONNECT to Economic Opportunity**

**Charlotte, NC.**

**Registration Opens July 15!**

The Institute for Emerging Issues



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