

INSTITUTE FOR EMERGING ISSUES MONTHLY DIGEST - JANUARY 2019

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE RECONNECT RURAL AND URBAN FORUM

January 31, 2019



A Word from the Director | January 2019

It was noon on a December morning 1999 during the final meeting of the Rural Prosperity Task Force. The goal of this meeting was to find consensus among the 25 members of a statewide group charged with solutions to address what we were calling the “rural-urban divide.”

Charlotte businessman Erskine Bowles was chair. I was the staff director. We’d been going since 8 that morning and the Task Force had agreed on exactly none of the final recommendations. The rural people were suspicious of the urban people; urban people disagreed with the rural folks. They’d had nothing to eat; they wanted food.

“They’re not going to agree on anything,” I said.

“Don’t feed ‘em,” Erskine said. “Just watch. They’ll agree.”

We waited. 1 pm: people were searching out vending machines; still no agreement. By 2 pm, people were wondering if the flowers on the table were edible. There was consensus on two of five recommendations. By 3 pm, the clouds parted. We had consensus on every issue. We gave them lunch.

“Never underestimate the power of food,” said Erskine.

It’s been nearly two decades since the task force wrapped up its work. And North Carolina is still having trouble agreeing on rural and urban issues.

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NC STATE UNIVERSITY | Institute for Emerging Issues



FEBRUARY 11 | 9 A.M.

RALEIGH MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

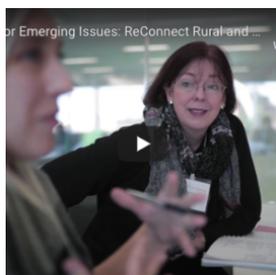
ReConnectNC.org

Reconnect Rural and Urban February 11

ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Forum Monday, February 11 | 9 a.m. | Raleigh Marriott City Center

Join Governor Roy Cooper, Laura Lane, President of Global Public Affairs for UPS, Dennis Alvord, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, U.S. Economic Development Administration and a host of other legislative leaders, NC State faculty, philanthropists, community organizations and subject matter experts to explore the origin of the perceived "rural-urban divide," discuss and debate strategies to increase cooperation between rural and urban communities, and hear from five rural and urban initiatives who have brought together rural, urban and suburban counties to build shared prosperity in ways that will inspire and energize other communities across the state.

[Register today »](#)



A Sneak Peek At Our Five ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Communities

IEI is proud to announce the five communities selected for our ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Community Cohort. These five communities are as follows: Carolina Core, Project Empathy, Project 40, Growing Outdoors Partnership, STEM SENC.

The selected are actively working on successful efforts to address shared challenges, promote and more effectively leverage interconnections between their different community types. These initiatives will be highlighted during our second Emerging Issues Forum in the ReCONNECT NC series February 11, 2019

[Watch the video »](#)



Meet our ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Faculty Member Dr. Renkow

Dr. Mitch Renkow is a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Renkow is excited about the opportunities presented by the ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Forum. In research that he conducted over a decade ago he found that when new jobs are created in one county, a substantial fraction of those jobs are taken by folks living in a different county.

That finding—along with work he has done subsequently with the Cooperative Extension’s Stronger Economies Together project—convinced him that the positive impacts of job creation in one specific community bring significant economic benefits to other communities and that this, in turn, provides a strong justification for regional cooperation.

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IEI receives grant from Duke Endowment for \$886K

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) is pleased to announce it has received a \$886,000 grant from the Duke Endowment for IEI’s Rural Faith Communities in Action project.

The grant continues the work of IEI’s Thriving Rural Communities initiative, which connects faith leaders to one another and resources throughout the year through peer networks. This award also ensures the continuation of IEI’s Rural Faith Communities as Anchor Institutions Conference and participation of rural faith leaders in annual Emerging Issues forums on critical issues facing our state.

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Service Year NC receives "The Service Year Alliance Continuing the Conversation Award"

Congratulations to our Service Year NC initiative on receiving The Service Year Alliance Continuing the Conversation Award. The Service Year Alliance Continuing the Conversation Award is a one-time award for qualifying attendees of the 2018 Service Year + Opportunity Youth Summit. The award is intended to support Summit participants continued conversations inspired by the Summit in their communities.

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ReCONNECT to Community Impact Report

The ReCONNECT to Community Impact Report provides a synopsis of the ReCONNECT to Community Forum and provides key statements, findings, readings and further steps for reconnection of civic engagement in NC. We invite you to read what we've heard and learned, test out our "six recommendations" in your community. We also hope you will share what you're discovering with ReCONNECT to Community program lead Maggie Woods.

[View the report »](#)

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 **Executive Director for the Triangle J Council of Governments Lee Worsley** and some of our earlier January episodes.

Episode 111: First in Future: Policy and Program Manager for the Institute for Emerging Issues Maggie Woods

Episode 110: First in Future: Principal Founder of Community Food Lab Erin White

Episode 109: President and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Dr. Patrick Conway

Episode 108: First in Future: co-founder and partner at Plexus Capital Kel Landis

[Listen »](#)

IEI IN THE NEWS

The Charlotte Observer
[As nation splinters, NC efforts are bringing us together](#)

The News and Observer
[Four forces can close NC's urban-rural divide](#)

The Sampson Independent
[STEM SENC \(Southeastern NC\)](#)

The Warren Record
[PROJECT 40](#)

The Daily Record
[The Carolina Core](#)

Hurry while there's still time! Join us on February 11 for our ReCONNECT Rural and Urban Forum. Register Today! »

The Institute for Emerging Issues



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