

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

**March 29, 2019**



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

Doc: I have some good news and some bad news.

Patient: Give me the bad news first.

Doc: OK you have an incurable illness.

Patient: That's horrible; what's the other news?

Doc: You'll be dead in six weeks.

Patient: That's even worse. Wait, what's the good news?

Doc: Well I hear it'll be a beautiful sunset tonight.

That's a pretty good summary of the argument Paul Krugman made in a recent article about the future prospects for rural America. Farm employment is shriveling; jobs are departing; the so-called "deaths of despair" are rising -- and there's nothing rural America can do about it.

Besides the outdated assessment of the impact of loss of farm employment -- most rural areas long ago adjusted to that -- it's the kind of column someone could only write if they are orbiting the earth 93 miles up and looking down on our country from there.

Back on earth, the closer you get to rural communities, the more nuance you can see. Two recent reports, a big conference this week, and IEI's experience working with rural-urban partnerships offer a lot more reason for hope.

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## Service Years and Opportunity Youth Conversation

Service Year NC is working to make a year of paid, full-time service – a “service year” – a common expectation and opportunity for North Carolinians.

On March 13 Service Year NC partnered with Movement of Youth to sponsor the “Service Years and Opportunity Youth” reception and conversation. This event convened participants from nonprofits, companies, policy makers, and concerned residents to learn more about “service years,” Service Year NC, and Opportunity Youth engagement.

“Finding ways to help opportunity youth find pathways to employment or further education and training can help the country fill workforce gaps,” said Darryl Lester, Service Year NC Director. Lester added, “Doing so through service year experiences offer the added benefits of developing purposeful, engaged citizens, willing to volunteer to solve community problems long after service year ends.”

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## April KidsReadyNC Meeting in Edenton

KidsReadyNC will be hosting its next meeting with community partners in Edenton, NC. As you may very well know, KidsReadyNC has been bring together enthusiastic, multi-stakeholder teams from the state’s Tier 1 and 2 counties who have committed to improving the health and development outcomes of their young children. These communities include: Catawba (Catawba Partnership for Children), Chowan (Chowan CARES), Randolph (Inspired Randolph Collaborative) and Rockingham (Rockingham Partnership for Children).

Funded in part by grants from The Belk Foundation and The Duke Endowment, selected communities have been receiving tools, technical assistance, and participating in a peer-learning process all designed to boost capacity and improve outcomes for children and families.

[Read more »](#)



## Two community teams working with IEI are getting a big boost from the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Foundation

Two community teams working with the Institute for Emerging Issues on strengthening their civic infrastructure are getting a big boost from the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Foundation.

SECU is providing support for the work of "One Team. One Goal. One Community" in Elizabeth City and the Rural Opportunity Initiative in Edgecombe County with IEI over the next two years. Both teams are part of a IEI's "ReCONNECT to Community" group, a collection of five communities doing innovative work to involve more citizens in community life.

The North Carolina State Employees Credit Union will present a check for \$30,000 to support the work of the Elizabeth City initiative with IEI in a ceremony on Monday, April 1 on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. A \$30,000 capacity building grant for the Rural Opportunity Initiative will also be presented in May.

"These grants are a terrific endorsement of the importance of the work these communities are doing," said IEI Director Leslie Boney. "We think this will not only make the initiatives stronger, but will enable them to share what they are learning with other communities."

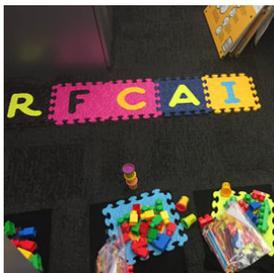
You can learn more about these initiatives by visiting: [ReConnect to Community website.](#)



## IEI participated in the first-ever NC State Day of Giving

IEI participated in the first-ever NC State Day of Giving and wanted to thank those of you that made a gift to our program fund. Collectively NC State was able to raise \$13,535,396.81 from a total of 10,810 gifts in a 24 hour time period. Though IEI didn't make it to the top spots on the leaderboard, we're happy to have been a part of such an extraordinary campaign.

[Visit Day of Giving website »](#)



## IEI's 2019 RFCAI Conference May 14-15, 2019

Rural Faith Leaders, join us May 14-15, 2019 for IEI's 2019 RFCAI Conference!

IEI is hosting our annual Rural Faith Communities as Anchor Institutions (RFCAI) Conference at Front Street UMC in Burlington, NC on May 14 and 15. Rural faith leaders and partners from across North Carolina will gather to learn from each other and experts on subjects our faith leaders tell us matter to them-topics like early childhood, the opioid crisis, civic conversations, and food partnerships. Registration is \$40 (Duke Endowment-eligible leaders may attend for free), limited spots available.

[2019 RFCAI Conference General Registration](#)

[2019 RFCAI Conference Duke Endowment-Eligible Leaders Registration](#)

NC STATE UNIVERSITY  Institute for Emerging Issues

**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 [Chief Executive Officer and President of the Piedmont Triad Partnership Stan Kelly](#) and some of our earlier February episodes.

[Episode 119: First in Future: President and CEO of the NC East Alliance John Chaffee](#)

[Episode 118: First in Future: Director of Growth and Communications RIoT Sarah Glova](#)

[Episode 117: First in Future: Executive Director of AMEXCAN \(The Association of Mexicans in North Carolina\) Juvencio Rocha Peralta](#)

[Listen »](#)

## Partner Spotlights

Thursday, April 04, 2019  
NC East Alliance  
2019 NCEast State of the Region  
9am - 2pm  
Greenville Convention Center  
[Click here to learn more](#)

**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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