

Media contact:
Ginny Inman
(919) 515-9254
getyson@ncsu.edu

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IEI AND SECU PARTNER TO OFFER \$50,000 PRIZE FOR INNOVATION

The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) and the State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) are partnering to offer innovative college and graduate students prizes up to \$50,000. The 2015 SECU Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation rewards student teams that channel their creativity and talent to address critical issues affecting North Carolina's future economic competitiveness and well-being.

The Prize encourages teams of students – undergraduates and graduate/professional students at two- and four-year colleges and universities in North Carolina – to help solve a problem affecting one or more of these areas: the economy, education, the natural and built environments and health.

The team winning the grand prize takes home \$50,000. The competition also includes a \$25,000 runner-up award; two "fan favorites" of \$10,000 each; and a \$5,000 "emerging idea" prize. All funds are used for project implementation.

"Last year, we marveled at the ways college students across our state found solutions for a variety of issues," said McKinley Wooten, Chairman, SECU Foundation. "We are excited to partner with IEI again and thrilled to see how our universities' students are thinking of innovative solutions to our state's issues."

The application deadline is December 1, 2014. For complete application materials, visit www.emergingissues.org.

Background on IEI:

Established in 2002, the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) connects people and resources from all sectors and areas of North Carolina in an effort to ensure our state's future economic competitiveness. Every February, IEI's Emerging Issues Forum attracts leaders in business, education and public policy to discuss a key challenge facing our state. By supporting collaboration among individuals from a variety of perspectives and backgrounds, IEI builds an enduring capacity for progress. For more information on IEI's work, visit www.emergingissues.org

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