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**WHY MANUFACTURING WORKS FOR NORTH CAROLINA:
*Institute for Emerging Issues announces newest program topic***

Raleigh, NC – September 10, 2012 —Today the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NC State University officially kicks off its newest emerging issue topic, *@Manufacturing Works*, which will focus on the evolution of manufacturing in North Carolina, and how communities can take advantage of the state’s new manufacturing opportunities.

“I am thrilled we are turning our focus to the manufacturing sector in 2013,” said Anita Brown-Graham, director of the Institute for Emerging Issues. “The new trends toward higher paying, more skilled manufacturing jobs have the potential of doing great things for North Carolina – if we make the right investments.”

IEI’s year-long program will focus on the state’s attention on how the sector has changed, including the use of innovative new processes, bringing previously offshored jobs back to North Carolina, and the creation on high skilled, high wage jobs.

There are several activities planned for this work, including the 28th Annual Emerging Issues Forum on February 11-12, 2013 at the Raleigh Convention Center featuring Chris Anderson, editor-in-chief of Wired Magazine and author of the upcoming book *Makers: The New Industrial Revolution*. Registration opens November 1 at www.emergingissues.org.

February also marks the opening of the Emerging Issues Commons, both online and in the James B. Hunt, Jr. Library at NC State University. The Commons will offer citizens additional tools to understand the changes in manufacturing, as well as collaborative software to identify specific strategies and resources to help them put those strategies into action.

Other activities include:

- **@Manufacturing Works Webinar:** Today at 1:00 p.m. IEI Director, Anita Brown-Graham, will host a webinar highlighting this emerging issue with featured speakers Scott Ralls, president of the North Carolina Community College System; Terri Helmlinger Ratcliff, executive director of NC State’s Industrial Extension Service; and Jon Turner, President of ULTRA Machine & Fabrication. Visit <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/925374351> to participate.
- **Action Initiative:** Starting today and continuing the length of the program, IEI will offer specific ways for citizens to engage with this work and contribute to community efforts. Those who share how they have

participated have the opportunity to be featured in IEI's work to a statewide audience.

- **The Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation:** High school and college teams are challenged to design an innovative product or tool that will benefit their community. The winning team in each category receives \$5,000. Applications are due November 16.
- **Emerging Leaders Discovery Forum:** Held in collaboration with Triangle Entrepreneurship Week on November 13, presenters will each get five minutes each to share their entrepreneurial idea that could make a difference in the community. Presentation proposals are due October 2.

For more information about the work of the Institute for Emerging Issues, including how to participate in the activities listed above, visit www.emergingissues.org

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The Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) is a think-and-do tank dedicated to North Carolina's future competitiveness. By supporting collaboration among individuals from all sectors and areas of the state, IEI builds an enduring capacity for progress. For more information on IEI's work, visit www.emergingissues.org.