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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Registration Opens for 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerging Issues Forum

RALEIGH— Registration opens today for the 2015 Emerging Issues Forum, scheduled for February 9-10, 2015, at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, North Carolina. Hosted by the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI), the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Emerging Issues Forum, “Innovation Reconstructed,” will focus on helping companies and communities compete in a future of accelerating *everything*.

“This Forum is for leaders of companies, communities and their partners who are seizing the opportunities offered by new connections and business models,” said Anita Brown-Graham, IEI director. “The time is right for this serious exploration of big ideas.”

“NC State University is dedicated to real and meaningful engagement with public and private partners,” said NC State Chancellor Randy Woodson. “For 30 years the Forum has offered an excellent opportunity for engagement that is focused on results.”

This Forum will explore how innovators in all sectors are thriving. They flourish by leveraging new connections in order to locate leading-edge ideas, to adapt to an increasingly mobile workforce, and to access shifting sources of capital. Sessions will examine why success depends on innovation, and how innovation now requires designing for a loss of control. The Forum will outline critical decision points for economic developers and policymakers in communities of all sizes.

Forum sessions will address topics such as:

- The ‘urgency of now’ – how and why North Carolina must innovate to compete as innovative companies think far beyond simple lines on a map
- How technology innovation is changing how we live and do business
- Strategies for responding to the huge impacts, good and bad, of rapid technology innovation
- How ‘place’ impacts our ability to grow, recruit, and retain innovative companies
- Policy options that support innovation, and how to implement them

At every Forum, attendees collaborate to identify critical action items that can be implemented to enhance North Carolina’s competitiveness. Following each Forum, IEI works across North Carolina to assist leaders at all levels as they implement Forum priorities in their communities.

Registration is now open. Learn more at [emergingissues.org](http://emergingissues.org).

## **Background on the Emerging Issue Forum and the Institute for Emerging Issues:**

Every February since 1986, the Emerging Issues Forum has attracted leaders in business, education, and public policy to Raleigh to discuss an issue with profound implications for North Carolina's future prosperity. For three decades, the Forum has helped catalyze the reforms, investments, and other proactive responses required to build an enduring capacity for progress in North Carolina.

In 2002, the UNC Board of Governors established the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) to lead and expand this work. IEI is a non-partisan public policy organization that exists to enhance North Carolina's economic competitiveness. Today, the Forum stands as the signature element in IEI's much wider program of year-round civic engagement work across the state.

For more information: [emergingissues.org](http://emergingissues.org)

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