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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARTICIPANT IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES OF EMERGING ISSUES FORUM RELEASED

Attendees identify action items to recruit, retain and support world-class teachers

RALEIGH – Today, the Institute for Emerging Issues officially released the top priorities developed by participants of the 29th annual Emerging Issues Forum: *Teachers and the Great Economic Debate*. Over 1,300 individuals from across the state attended the Forum on February 10 and 11 to hear national and international speakers discuss and debate best management practices and various ideas. As happens each year, Forum attendees respond to speakers by identifying a list of priorities for action in our state.

“This Forum proves that when North Carolinians come together and focus on solutions to our pressing public issues, powerful ideas are born,” said Anita Brown-Graham, director of the Institute for Emerging Issues. “As Forum attendees and others begin to work on these priorities within their communities, we will see exciting steps forward for education and our economy.”

At the end of the two-day event, participants were asked, “How can North Carolina offer a world-class teacher in every classroom – public, private or charter – in the state?” Attendees put forth ideas for collective action in response to that question. The five top priorities identified are:

- Rebrand teaching through a statewide campaign that attracts young people to the profession, and helps the greater community understand the value of our teachers.
- Increase teacher competitiveness by enhancing entry-level requirements and tying compensation to multiple measures.
- Build career ladders that allow top teachers to stay in the classroom, and reward teachers with differential pay for taking on leadership responsibilities such as coaching peers.
- Emulate the medical profession's structure for establishing status by focusing on better training, standards and leadership opportunities.
- Develop 11-month contract options for teachers to allow for more effective talent development.

In an effort to facilitate continued community engagement around these priorities, IEI has designated a virtual space for a six-week “boot camp” that is open to all who wish to participate. To get boot camp ready, open discussion, initial collaboration, research and idea exchange will take place in the [Emerging Issues Commons](#). Beginning March

10, participants can learn how to build a local team, develop a plan unique to their community and apply for funds to implement that plan through IEI's six-week, focused online activity: [MOOC-Ed: World Class Teaching](#).

For additional information on how to participate in the Emerging Issues Commons or the Massive Open Online Course and all efforts and activities of the Institute for Emerging Issues, visit www.emergingissues.org.

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