Are you a high school student in North Carolina?
Do you want to make a difference in your community?
Start here.

North Carolina has a rich tradition of innovation and collaboration. The state is known for its big ideas that have changed our world, and yours could be next!

In 1986, Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. had an idea: Let’s bring the brightest minds in the state together and tackle the biggest challenges we are facing. And so the Emerging Issues Forum was born. In 2002, we took another step further and the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) was founded to turn those ideas into reality. IEI brings diverse perspectives together to address issues in an interconnected, long-term way, inspiring and motivating others to work toward positive change. In that spirit of collaboration, IEI hopes to mobilize the brightest student minds across the state in the service of their fellow citizens and continue the tradition of creativity and innovation in North Carolina.

The fourth annual Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation challenges students across the state to unleash their creativity and work collaboratively to design a process, environment, or tool for a K-12 classroom that will increase student engagement. This year’s Prize competition will be open to all high school students in North Carolina. Finalist teams will receive $1,000. For the most inventive and viable idea, IEI will award $5,000 to get the project off the ground. The winning team will be announced at IEI’s 29th Annual Emerging Issues Forum, February 10-11, 2014 in Raleigh, North Carolina.
2013-2014 CHALLENGE:
Create a process, environment, or tool for the K-12 classroom to increase student engagement.

IEI's latest work is focused on building a world-class teaching workforce in North Carolina. The skills demanded to be successful in the global economy and the rapid acceleration of technological advances require that we revolutionize the classroom in North Carolina and around the world. Having long prided itself in providing high-quality education, North Carolina's governments, businesses, and citizens must now assist its teachers in building the most educated and globally competitive students.

The advent of technology means our world is rapidly changing, which in turn means our classrooms must change if they are going to best serve our students and teachers. IEI's challenge to you is to design a process, environment, or tool to help students invest in and direct their learning in K-12 classrooms. What do we mean by this? Maybe you'll develop an app that better organizes a student's workload. Maybe you'll create an innovative desk that makes learning easier. Maybe you'll completely redesign what a classroom should look like. As long as it's realistic, we're not picky. We just want the best ideas to increase student engagement.

Engaged students take ownership of their own learning. They use resources and technology to expand learning in and out of the classroom. Their motivation allows their teachers to produce creative lesson plans and reduce busy work. They are driven to teach and learn from their peers. Engaged students grow up to be the world-class leaders that we need here in North Carolina. We are looking for a process, environment, or tool that can be used across the state to deliver world-class instruction. We're not simply seeking something that will just make the classroom more “fun” or “exciting,” but looking for an idea that will have a powerful impact on how, when, what, and where students learn.

We encourage students to be as innovative and creative as possible. Nothing is off limits, as long as your invention or design can strongly and positively influence learning! You don't have to actually build/manufacture or prototype your product as part of the application process, but we do ask that you clearly tell us how you will take steps to build/manufacture or prototype your product if awarded the $5,000 prize.

APPLICATION PREPARATION

IEI encourages interested student teams in North Carolina's high schools to submit applications. There is no maximum team size, but teams must have at least two people. Each team must identify a mentor who will provide counsel on the proposal at every stage. Mentors may be teachers, guidance counselors, faculty, staff, administrators, community leaders, etc. Teams must also designate one person as team captain.

In answering the application questions, each team must clearly define: your innovative process, environment, or tool, and how it will increase student engagement.
IEI will host an informational webinar on September 23, 2013 for anyone interested in learning about this year’s prize. To register, click here. For those not able to join us, a recording of the webinar will be available at www.emergingissues.org.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be judged using the same criteria:

- Clarity of idea and explanation of how it is intended to increase student engagement
- Innovativeness of idea
- Feasibility
- Budget plan for using the final $5,000 prize

An internal Prize Review Committee will review all complete applications and select up to 15 applications to be reviewed by the Prize Judges. From these applications, Prize Judges will select up to five finalists. Judges will be IEI board members, NCSU School of Design representatives and / or representatives from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction’s area of K12 Curriculum & Instruction.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are due to IEI by 11:59 p.m. November 8, 2013 and should be sent electronically to emerging_issues@ncsu.edu or by mail to Campus Box 7406 Raleigh NC 27695 to the attention of Prize for Innovation.

IEI will announce up to five finalist teams on December 4, 2013. Each finalist team will be awarded $1,000 and, working with their mentor, will prepare a two to three minute video presentation describing their idea.

Finalists will import their videos (instructions will be provided) on IEI’s YouTube channel by Friday, January 24, 2014.

Emerging Issue Forum attendees and anyone viewing the videos online will vote for the best idea among the finalists. This will be done using a controlled voting (one vote per person) program on IEI’s website. The winning team will be announced at the Forum and awarded $5,000 to go toward developing their idea.. The winning team will also receive one consultation with Bryan Setser, a partner at 2Revolutions, an education design lab that designs and launches Future of Learning models and catalyzes the conditions in which they can thrive.
IMPLEMENTING THE WINNING PROJECT

Upon acceptance of the prize, the recipients agree to submit to IEI quarterly progress reports, which will document actions taken and how funding was spent.

RULES

• Product/design must be original.
• Teams must designate a mentor AND a team captain.
• Prize money will be distributed via check. Winner checks will be made out to the high school. IEI expects the high school mentor to retain oversight of the prize fund to administer the project budget.
• To receive payment, mentors must coordinate W-9 paperwork with IEI.
• At least one representative from each finalist team must attend the Emerging Issues Forum. Each finalist team will receive up to five free Forum tickets.
• Travel to the Forum may be paid out of the $1,000 finalist prize money. Finalist earnings may also be spent on video production, and any left over will go to the high schools of the finalist teams.
• The winning team must use the $5,000 grand prize for product/design development (this can include prototyping) and must submit quarterly progress reports to IEI.

ABOUT IEI

The Institute for Emerging Issues at NC State University is a think-and-do tank committed to North Carolina’s future. Working collaboratively with individuals from all sectors and areas of the state, we believe when people work together with a shared will and common vision, progress is smarter, more comprehensive, and enduring. For questions, contact emerging_issues@ncsu.edu or (919) 515-7741