FutureWork Prosperity Tour
Sets Out Across State
to Engage Students

North Carolina faces an enormous “FutureWork” challenge as two big trends converge: the “rise of the robots” meaning that automation will significantly change or eliminate more and more jobs, and our state’s demography is shifting rapidly as we age, grow more diverse, and as our workforce welcomes more women.

We at IEI are taking to the open roads this summer, embarking on the FutureWork Prosperity Tour, a statewide bus tour across each of North Carolina’s eight regional Prosperity Zones. This week IEI kicked off its Tour with a visit to Statesville, partnering with the Statesville Chamber of Commerce and Statesville High School.

Armed with location specific fact sheets for the Southwest Region, IEI’s team set out to visit area schools, universities, and businesses; specifically to hear from you and your community about the future of work and relevant jobs data from our FutureWork Disruption Index for North Carolina.

In partnership with Duke Energy Foundation and the Local Government Federal Credit Union, IEI rolled into Statesville in Iredell County, meeting with local community leaders to:

- Discuss the projected demographic and economic shifts
- Explore job loss projections for their region
- Examine how job skills have changed over time, and how we can best prepare for tomorrow’s workforce

Future Newsletters: We Want to Hear From You!

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Featured Program: IEI’s Summer in the Commons Youth Engagement Program

Looking for an engaging activity for your K-12 students this summer?
Schedule your Summer in the Commons tour today.
For more information, contact Simone Collman.

Feature Event: FutureWork Prosperity Tour
Stopping at Statesville High School, more than 25 students engaged in a group activity designed to help gain an understanding of how automation may influence their future job choices. Students were asked to use web-enabled tablets to find (1) the occupation least likely to be automated in the future, and (2) the occupation with the highest risk of being automated.

Following the data search activities, students considered the skills most likely to be automated in the future as well as what areas across the state might experience the highest and lowest job growth during their lifetime.

Regional convenings will focus on the key priority action item developed by our FutureWork Forum participants: ensuring a comprehensive plan so every person, irrespective of where they live in the state, is able to gain emerging skills and talents. This priority is about ensuring regional equity, and the question for you and your community is, “does your region provide its current and future workforce with a ‘FutureWork-Ready’ talent development system?”

Hope to see you along the tour!

Best,

Kendall