NC State is excited to announce that we will be hosting FoodCon 2016, a one-day conference focused on the business of sustainable food, on Friday, November 11. The goal of the conference is to bring together a diverse audience of students, community members and business professionals who have an interest in and/or are working in the sustainable food industry. We aim to increase the awareness and understanding of the sustainable food industry, as well as to support and to grow the industry here in North Carolina and throughout the country.
The Discovery Forum series is back! Mark your calendars for this annual innovation competition, produced jointly by IEI and BB&T, and save the date for the first in the series, coming to the Triangle September 21! More info coming soon.

Help Youth Get FutureWork-Ready This Summer!

IEI has been offered a generous $10,000 donation in support of its summer youth programs aimed at educating K-12 and college students on becoming “FutureWork-ready” leaders for North Carolina.

The catch? IEI must secure another 216 supporters, with gifts of at least $20.16! Please help us meet this 216 supporters = $10,000 in youth program challenge!

Donate Today!

FoodCon began at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Kenan-Flagler Business School in 2014 as a sustainable food and agriculture conference. The conference brought together a diverse range of speakers who discussed current trends and issues in the sustainable food industry. In 2015, the conference moved to Duke’s Fuqua School of Business and became a partnership between Duke, UNC-CH, and NC State.

FoodCon 2016 at NC State

For FoodCon 2016, we plan to continue the FoodCon tradition while emphasizing NC State’s unique perspective and expertise in sustainable food and innovation. Our goals for FoodCon 2016 at NC State are:

- 200+ attendees
- One-third of attendees coming from the community outside of Duke, UNC, and NC State
- 2 keynote speakers
- 9 panels
- Sustainably and locally-sourced food

Speakers, Panels and Workshops

We are proud to announce that we will be hosting Cheryl Queen, Vice President of Communication and Corporate Affairs at Compass Group USA, and Gerardo Reyes Chávez, an organizer with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. They will discuss their
experience working together to protect farmworkers in Florida and highlight important social aspects of sustainable food and agriculture. We look forward to announcing our second keynote speaker in the coming weeks on our website and Facebook page.

The list of speakers and panels for FoodCon 2016 continues to grow each day. Right now, that list includes topics such as food and agricultural financing, using local food systems as a driver in economic development, business opportunities in utilizing food waste, and many more.

**FoodCon 2016 and Health**

FoodCon has always had a health focus, with many of the panel topics and discussions centering on food access, healthy food, and sustainable agricultural practices. This year, we plan to continue this discussion with panels focusing on the role that entrepreneurship plays in alleviating hunger, in food traceability and safety, and in access to healthy and local food in institutions such as child care facilities. It is our hope that these discussions will inspire participants to learn more about these subjects and motivate them to get involved in working on these issues in our community.

We are excited to bring this conference to NC State and to demonstrate the university’s leadership in sustainable food and business. We look forward to continuing our work with the NC State, Duke, and UNC-CH communities, while also expanding our reach to the community outside of these institutions. If you are interested in partnering with us, please reach out to me at gegivens@ncsu.edu.