In order to apply, teams will:

1. Identify a local challenge the community has historically wrestled with
2. Study the local history of the issue and prepare an overview of that history
3. Devise a potential solution to the challenge
4. Create a plan to engage the community with the proposed solution

Turn your great idea for improving North Carolina's future into reality with $5,000!

WIN $5,000 TO TURN YOUR IDEA INTO REALITY!

Grand Prize Winner: $5,000
Apply By November 10, 2014

Today’s high school students represent the most technologically connected generation ever. But they need to up their civic engagement game. Here’s how!

The 2015 Emerging Issues High School Prize for Innovation challenges teams of high school students to reflect on the past in order to help improve a community’s future. Teams will investigate the historical roots of a local challenge a community has wrestled with in one or more of the following areas: its economy, education, the natural and built environments, health, or civic health. Teams will then develop an innovative solution to the challenge, and engage community members in tackling the issue.

Perhaps your team wants to launch a media campaign, create a working group, start a nonprofit, perfect a new technology– or maybe you’ve got an entirely new approach or model in mind.

Your team’s goal might be to:
• Connect students to local career options.
• Make your community more walkable or bike-friendly.
• Raise high school graduation rates.
• Lower your community’s childhood obesity rate.

These are a few examples, but we’re interested in every good idea. Challenges are everywhere, and your team can choose any challenge it wants to attack. Just be innovative, and back up your great idea with a solid engagement plan.

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#IEIHSprize
APPLICATION
The 2015 Emerging Issues High School Prize for Innovation!

WHO CAN ENTER?
The 2015 Emerging Issues High School Prize for Innovation is open to teams of students enrolled in any high school, home school, or early college in North Carolina. There is no maximum team size, but teams must have at least two members. Proof of enrollment will be required for all winning team members. Teams will also select a mentor to serve as a general project advisor.

WHICH PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?
To solve the challenges facing North Carolina, we need N.C.’s smart young adults to bring their innovative thinking and fresh perspectives to the table. The Prize contest is designed to stimulate student thinking and catalyze action through proposal implementation.

Teams will investigate the historical roots of a local challenge a community has wrestled with in one or more of the following areas: its economy, education, the natural and built environments, health, or civic health. Teams will then develop an innovative solution to the challenge, and engage community members in tackling the issue.

Perhaps your team wants to launch a media campaign, create a working group, start a nonprofit, perfect a new technology— or maybe you’ve got an entirely new approach or model in mind.

Your team’s goal might be to:
- Connect students to local career options.
- Make your community more walkable or bike-friendly.
- Raise high school graduation rates.
- Lower your community’s childhood obesity rate.

These are a few examples, but we're interested in every good idea. Challenges are everywhere, and your team can choose any challenge it wants to attack so long as it overlaps with one or more of the focus areas noted above. Just be innovative, and back up your great idea with a solid community engagement plan.

Complete applications must include:
1. A detailed description of a local challenge the community has historically wrestled with in one or more of the following areas: its economy, education, the natural and built environments, health, or civic health (see “Proposal Narrative” section for details)
2. An explanation of the team’s proposed solution to the challenge
3. An outline of the team’s plan to engage the community with the proposed solution

Some examples of individuals and groups the team could plan to engage include: town council members, county commissioners, city planners, public health officials, neighborhood associations, civic clubs, student clubs, homeless shelters, community colleges, career centers, even your school’s principal and administrators! Your community engagement initiative could also take many different forms. For example, your team could organize one or more community meetings or workshops, a community survey, or incorporate a social media campaign in your engagement strategy. Again, these are just a few examples and we are interested in every high quality and innovative idea.

It is desirable that a proposal’s key idea(s) originate within the team, but it’s not an absolute requirement. In all events, the team’s members must lead the project’s development and execution. Teams are responsible for ensuring the lawful use of any external intellectual property utilized in the project.
WHO WINS WHAT, HOW, AND WHEN?

1 APPLICATION DEADLINE
   November 10, 2014, 11:59pm
   Email your completed application in a single, comprehensive PDF to emergingissues@ncsu.edu.

2 FINALIST SELECTION PROCESS
   November 10–early December 2014
   An IEI Prize Review Committee composed of IEI staff members will review all applications to select a pool of semifinalists. An expert panel of judges will then review all semifinalist applications and select up to five finalists who will be awarded $1,000 and go on to compete in an open, online public voting competition that will determine the Grand Prize winner.

3 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED
   December 8, 2014
   Finalists will be notified on December 8, 2014 and will receive $1,000 and up to five free tickets to the Emerging Issues Forum, Feb. 9-10, 2014, in Raleigh, N.C. Prize money will be distributed via check made out to the Finalist team’s high school. Mentors must coordinate W-9 paperwork with IEI. At least one representative from each finalist team must attend the Forum.

   Finalists will use the $1,000 award to develop a video that will constitute their entry in the online public voting competition to select the Grand Prize winner. They may also use these funds to defray expenses related to attending the Forum, where the winning team will be announced.

4 VIDEO CREATION
   December 8–January 28
   Each finalist team must develop a short (2-3 minute) video briefly describing the challenge they are addressing, their proposed solution, and their plan for community engagement. Videos must be imported on IEI’s YouTube channel by Wednesday, January 28, 2015. Note: In submitting a video, all applicants grant permission for IEI and NC State to use, reproduce, or distribute the video to the public in any manner or in any medium without payment of any fee, and in perpetuity.

5 PUBLIC VOTING COMPETITION
   February 2-9, 2015
   On February 2 or before, IEI will post project abstracts and links to team videos on IEI’s website. Beginning February 2, Emerging Issues Forum attendees and members of the general public will be invited to vote for the best idea/project among the Finalists. Voting will culminate on the first day of the Emerging Issues Forum (Feb. 9, 2015). This will be done using a controlled voting (one vote per person) program on IEI’s website. Finalists will be encouraged to promote their candidacies and seek support from friends, family, and others. The Grand Prize winner will be announced at the Forum.

6 IEI EMERGING ISSUES FORUM
   Feb. 9-10, 2015, Raleigh, NC
   The Grand Prize winner will be announced and publically recognized on day two of the Emerging Issues Forum. IEI will live-stream this announcement on emergingissues.org.

7 IMPLEMENTATION
   The Grand Prize-winning team may begin proposal implementation as soon as prize monies are disbursed. IEI will provide formal terms of prize administration, including approved budget and reporting requirements, by letter sent to the Team Captain and Mentor. The Grand Prize winner is required to submit three quarterly progress reports and a final grant report in the year following award disbursement. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may result in award cancellation. The team’s progress will be reported at the 2016 Emerging Issues Forum.
INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

IEI will host an informational webinar on September 17, 2014, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., for anyone interested in learning more about the competition. To register for the webinar, visit emergingissues.org. IEI will post a recording of the webinar to our website.

DETAILED APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A completed application includes the following components. Detailed instructions for each component are provided on page 5.

1. Roster of Team Members
2. Mentor Information
3. Project Abstract
4. Proposal Narrative
5. Budget and Budget Commentary
6. Statement of Participation from Mentor
7. Additional Supporting Documents

Note: All items must be consolidated and submitted as a single comprehensive PDF file.
Prepare a document that includes the following information, using the section headers you see below:

1. **Roster of Team Members**
   For each team member:
   - **Name, Address, Email, Phone**
   - **High School, Grade Level**
   - **Project Role**
     *Note: Each team must designate a Team Captain to serve as primary contact and spokesperson. All members must have a role, determined as the team prefers.*

2. **Mentor Information**
   For the Mentor*:
   - **Name**
   - **Address, Email, Phone**
   - **School and Department/Organization**
   - **Full Job Title**

   *Each team must identify a Mentor, who may be a teacher, principal, guidance counselor, coach, etc. In addition to serving as a general project advisor, the Mentor will be responsible for tracking, overseeing, and reporting of all prize monies after disbursement, in the form of a grant award, to the winning team’s educational institution. Mentors must be eligible to administer prize monies via the high school. The Mentor will help students understand and comply with the school system’s rules and processes governing expenditure of grant funds. Teams should consult with their Mentor at each stage of the project.*

3. **Project Abstract**
   In a project abstract of 250-300 words, provide an overview of the challenge to be addressed, nature of your project, proposed solution, and team strengths.

4. **Proposal Narrative**
   Provide a narrative description that speaks to the following issues. The narrative should not be longer than 2,500 words, excluding charts and graphics.

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**Research of Challenge**
- What is the challenge your community has historically wrestled with?
- Why is this challenge important and what has made it difficult to resolve?
- What specific groups, neighborhoods, organizations, and individuals have been impacted by this challenge and how?
- How has this challenge evolved over time?

**Proposal to Address the Challenge**
- How exactly will your project address the challenge?
- What is the purpose and what are the goals of your proposed project?
- How is your approach different from other attempts to address the challenge?

**Community Engagement**
- Which community members will your team engage in a discussion about the challenge to the community and the proposed solution?
- How do you propose to engage these individuals or groups?
- How will you encourage the participation of individuals and groups that, though not themselves directly impacted, are still needed to address the challenge successfully?

**Likelihood of Success**
- How does the solution deal with possible barriers to implementation?
- What is the project timeline and what are benchmarks for implementation?
- How will you track and measure your project’s success?
- What metrics (data or other evidence) will be used to measure impact?
You must provide a comprehensive descriptive and quantitative budget appropriate for the $5,000 Grand Prize. In your proposed budget, please include estimates for all proposed expenses. Note: the Grand Prize winner may apply the $1,000 finalist cash award for video production and to defray travel expenses incurred while attending the Emerging Issues Forum; therefore, do not include these in your $5,000 proposed budget. Limit commentary to 1,000 words, excluding charts and graphics.

Please submit a separate written statement (for example, a brief letter) from the Mentor verifying willingness to participate and acknowledgement of the duties of the role.

Should you wish, you may submit additional supporting documents. Briefly list and describe any such documents and attach them as numbered appendices.

Note: When compiling your written application into a single comprehensive pdf file, you may wish to use Adobe Acrobat, or free sites like pdfmerge.com, smallpdf.com, or other similar sites. If you are unable to send the application electronically, you may mail your application, postmarked by November 10, 2014, to:

Institute for Emerging Issues,
Attn: 2015 High School Prize for Innovation,
Campus Box 7406, Raleigh, N.C. 27695.

An IEI Prize Review Committee composed of IEI staff members will review all applications and select semifinalists. A panel of expert judges will then review these semifinalist selections and determine up to five finalist teams who will each be awarded $1,000.

The Grand Prize winner will be determined via an open, online public voting competition open to the general public. Finalists will be encouraged to promote their candidacies and seek support from friends, family, and others. Attendees of the Emerging Issue Forum will also be invited to vote in the competition.

In past years, expert judges have included IEI board members, members of IEI’s Issue Councils, and other experts working in the areas of economic development, education, the natural or built environment, and health.
When evaluating applications and videos, IEI staff and expert judges will bear in mind the following considerations:

- Is the application persuasive, well organized, and professional?
- What is the quality of the team’s community research into the identified challenge and how detailed is the team’s sketch of related history?
- Does the team identify an innovative approach to the identified challenge?
- Has the team based its proposed solution on reasonable assumptions and credible data?
- Does the team have relevant experience, time management abilities, and organizational skills?
- Will the proposed solution have a significant and lasting impact on the challenge it seeks to address?
- Does the community engagement plan fit well with the identified challenge and proposed solution?
- Is the engagement plan inclusive and appropriate for reaching the intended audience?

**CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Before submitting an application, teams are encouraged to think carefully about the issues of public disclosure and intellectual property. IEI promotes and makes public the prize competition, winning and other proposals including videos, and the identities of winners and certain other applicants.

As a result, this competition exposes your ideas, potential or actual intellectual property, and/or patentable ideas to public notice. Confidentiality is not guaranteed in any way. If you need to guard confidential ideas or materials, you should not include them with your submissions. If you intend to file patent protection for any part or aspect of your proposal, be aware that entry into this competition may be construed as a public disclosure. You may wish to consult with an intellectual property attorney before submitting your application.

The Institute for Emerging Issues and N.C. State University take no financial or ownership interest in the projects funded by this competition. Intra-team confidentiality is the sole responsibility of team members, and IEI will not arbitrate any such disputes.

**IEI AUTHORITY**

All decisions by IEI and its judges are final. IEI specifically reserves the right to amend or change competition rules at any time for any reason. IEI will communicate any such changes to all entrants as quickly and efficiently as possible. IEI reserves the right to reduce the number of finalist selections if, in IEI’s exclusive judgment, too few proposals of significant merit are submitted. IEI reserves the right to disqualify entries that in its judgment violate the letter or spirit of the competition guidelines. IEI, its judges, and N.C. State expressly disclaim any responsibility to ensure the confidentiality of any information submitted as part of this competition.
For your proposal to be considered complete, you must include:

- Roster of Team Members
- Mentor Information
- Project Abstract
- Proposal Narrative
- Budget and budget commentary
- Statement of Participation from Mentor
- Additional Supporting Documents

Note: All items must be consolidated and submitted as a single comprehensive PDF file.

Apply by November 10!