January 15, 2015

The excitement is building! The 30th Annual Emerging Issues Forum, “Innovation Reconstructed,” is just 26 days away.

You will be hearing a lot from us in the next few weeks. We have several ways for you to engage in designing the Forum content and choosing contest winners.

Please note we’re selling tickets even faster than last year, when we sold out the Raleigh Convention Center two weeks before the Forum. If you have not registered, please, don’t delay! Register now to secure your seat!

This year’s Forum theme? Getting innovation right in North Carolina. Amazing speakers, powerhouse agenda, great networking with the state’s top leaders in business, higher education, government, and philanthropy – you will be thrilled by what you learn, the people you meet, and how your ideas help drive the discussion.

A few highlights:

- **Jeffrey M. Lacker**, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, on building the workforce for tomorrow’s innovative companies

- **ADM Michael S. Rogers USN**, Director of the National Security Agency, and **Michael J. “Mike” Rogers**, immediate past Chair, US House Intelligence Committee, on privacy and cybersecurity challenges in the era of digital connection

- **Steve O’Donnell** of NASCAR, **Jim Goodnight** of SAS, **Sepi Saidi** of SEPI Engineering, and **Bob Ingram** of Hatteras Venture Partners on bridging from North Carolina’s innovation past to a vibrant innovative future

- **Don Tapscott**, hailed as one of the world’s top five...
most-respected management thinkers, on “The Urgency of the Moment”

- **Jenny Kassan**, CEO of Cutting Edge Capital, on financing our market and community innovations

- **Gov. Pat McCrory**, on making North Carolina the nation’s “third vertex” for innovation

- **Hon. Janet Cowell**, North Carolina Treasurer, on the right policy framework to support innovation

- **Ray Kurzweil**, renowned inventor, tech guru, and Google engineering director, on seizing a future of extraordinary possibilities

We’ll have panels on the future of higher education, leading-edge innovation spaces, what we need and don’t need in our public policy, and the right mix of funding and financing to drive innovation forward. Through our “RTP Foundation Innovators Spotlight” feature, you’ll evaluate 90-second pitches from promising entrepreneurs. In addition, you’ll celebrate young innovators from across North Carolina with cash awards. You’ll be the first to receive the 2015 *North Carolina Civil Health Index*, a special IEI effort that links strong civic engagement to economic strength in communities. And your voice will help shape a critical slate of consensus post-Forum action steps.

Want to know more? Check out the [complete Forum agenda](#).

As you know, IEI’s core mission is to enhance North Carolina’s long-term economic prosperity. That’s our promise to every North Carolinian. With the 2015 Forum, we continue to deliver on that promise.

See you at the [Forum]!

Anita

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