April 2014

In a year in which IEI has focused on the importance of world-class teaching, I’m excited to see us create spaces for you to “think and do” in support of helping our students to develop a strong foundation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) — disciplines critical to competing on the global stage.

**Rural Health Care**

Yesterday, we heard from three visionary community health leaders in our webinar “Strengthening Health Systems in Resource-Limited Areas: Lessons from Rural South Africa and Rural North Carolina.” Dr. Mosa Moshabela and Dr. Bernhard Gaede (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Centre for Rural Health, Durban, South Africa) shared strategies for the delivery of HIV care services in rural areas, while Dr. R.W. “Chip” Watkins (Community Care of North Carolina, Asheville, NC) explained his innovative plan to place healthcare management students into practices to facilitate the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition process. These men would benefit from people proficient in STEM disciplines to carry out their important work.

**Science Summit**

The 2014 Science Summit, is happening today! It is being livestreamed, so feel free to tune in and watch our state leaders tackle strategies for strengthening North Carolina’s STEM infrastructure. This afternoon, we will hear from Senator Bob Rucho and Representative Tom Murry. As a signature event of the North Carolina Science Festival, the Science Summit provides a platform to focus on the importance of science and technology to our state’s economy. This year, the Summit’s 24 partners seek to build the connections and capacity needed for North Carolina’s regions to enhance their science and technology-based sectors.

**Manufacturing Report**

A lot has happened in our state since IEI’s 2013 Emerging Issues Forum: @ManufacturingWorks. That Forum focused on modern manufacturing, as redefined by transformational technological innovations, and IEI is proud to announce the release of its Manufacturing Report to showcase how 15 amazing communities across the state have moved to embrace modern manufacturing. Click here to access the report, as well as other resources, and see how you can take advantage of the opportunities advanced manufacturing presents in your community.

**Manufacturing Twitter Chat**

Can’t make it to the 2014 Science Summit? Join us for the livestream online happening now! Click here to access the livestream. Check out the agenda and list of speakers.

Much has happened since the 2013 Emerging Issues Forum: @Manufacturing Works. Today, we launched a report sharing how communities across NC are taking advantage of the opportunities advanced manufacturing has to offer. Click here to read the report, and join us for a Twitter chat tomorrow at 10 a.m. to learn more about this work.

#IEIMR
Along with the Manufacturing Report release, IEI will host a Twitter Chat on April 11, at 10 a.m. Follow the hashtag #IEIMR (Institute for Emerging Issues Manufacturing Report) to learn more about the communities taking part in IEI’s local forum process, facts about manufacturing in NC, and resources for working in your community.

IEI MOOC-Ed Part II: Turning Ideas into a Reality

This week, participants in IEI’s first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC-Ed), World-Class Teaching, will begin to take what they’ve learned about world-class teaching and develop a blueprint for supportive action within schools and communities. We will share IEI’s Guide to Action tool and results of the MOOC-Ed in my newsletter next month. While the efforts surely will not focus exclusively on STEM, I can’t imagine that whatever these participants do won’t have a positive impact on strengthening STEM in our state.

Please join us for one or more of these opportunities. It is time to move from “think” to “do.”

With great appreciation,

Anita