Differences in community connections and capacity often explain why places that appear similarly situated experience dramatically dissimilar outcomes when trying to solve public problems. Places with greater capacity to mobilize individual, organizational and social network resources are more likely to be successful.

This is very good news for North Carolina as we work to educate our young people. IEI has already seen strong degrees of connectedness among a broad group of stakeholders, coming together across regions, sectors and perspectives to participate in last month’s Emerging Issues Forum, Teachers and the Great Economic Debate. These individuals came together in record numbers with a strong willingness to participate, and they continue to work to translate their commitment into actions that improve k-12 students’ learning and lifetime earnings.

Much of what is happening is being led by others, and we will try to share as much of that work with you as we can in the coming months. In addition, there are several IEI-supported opportunities to share today.

- If you are not participating in IEI’s World Class Teaching MOOC, you are missing something remarkable. The World Class Teaching MOOC-Ed is an online platform designed to continue the lessons from last month’s Emerging Issues Forum and teach participants how to build the capacity in support of community action for educator excellence.

- On April 10th, in partnership with 24 other organizations, IEI will host the North Carolina Science Summit to focus on the need to strengthen North Carolina’s STEM related industries by growing the workforce pipeline. You may participate in person at any of the seven regional sites based on where you would like to provide input into the regional planning effort. Additionally, the event will be streamed live on IEI’s website so that you are able to participate even if unable to travel to one of the regional sites.

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker presented at the 2013 Science Summit. Click here for a list of speakers for this year’s event.

- In partnership with Duke University’s Sanford School and Center for Child and Family Policy, IEI will host a webinar, Strengthening Health Systems in Resource-Limited Areas — Lessons from rural South Africa and rural North Carolina, on April 9 from 3-4 p.m. Learn more about how rural health innovations and partnerships have helped communities in North Carolina and around the world and make connections to help improve your own.
• We’re hosting a Twitter chat on April 11 at 10 a.m. to showcase statewide efforts found in our 2014 Manufacturing Report. This report will highlight the great action stemming from the state and local conversations convened as part of the @Manufacturing Works local effort with 20 rural counties and the NC Association of County Commissioners, NC Cooperative Extension and the NC Community College System. Follow #EIMF to learn more. You will be impressed by what these counties are doing to align educational systems with regional manufacturing needs.

In the meanwhile, let’s continue to build our connections and capacity to spark action.

Warmly,

Anita