May 2014

Beginning in June, IEI will embark on a new campaign. Don’t worry, we are not asking for money (this time). Instead, we are asking for your stories. For the past 29 years, the Emerging Issues Forum has inspired North Carolinians to think innovatively and work collaboratively. What have been the positive impacts thus far? What stories do you have about insights gained, initiatives launched and actions accomplished through the Forum and the work of IEI? Also, and very importantly, what are your aspirations for future innovations to improve our state’s competitiveness that you hope to see highlighted over the course of the next 30 Forums?

I have no doubt that you will, as always, be generous with your insights. Last month, I shared several ways IEI has created spaces for you to “think and do” to expand the pipeline of students in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). You responded positively to the STEM opportunities offered, but several of you wrote to express your hopes that we focus broadly on preparing students for success in our future economy.

You suggested that STEM must be bolstered by the perspectives of other subjects, offering extended acronyms such as:

- Science, technology, engineering, ART and mathematics (STEAM)
- Science, technology, HISTORY, engineering and mathematics (STHEM)
- Science, technology, engineering, mathematics and social studies (STEMSS)

Thanks to the Belk Foundation, IEI is launching a Community Action Plan Grant Competition, where winning team(s) can win up to $17,500 to implement their plan to train, retain, and support world-class teachers in North Carolina’s local communities. For more details, click here.

What are the skills you think our future workforce will need to thrive in a world requiring constant adaptation? Head over to our Emerging Issues Commons to share your thoughts.

Miss any of the presentations from April’s Science Summit? Head to our YouTube channel to watch what you missed.
In retrospect, I am pretty sure you all would have been pleased with content of the 2014 Science Summit. Every session reflected the interrelatedness of many disciplines. For more insight into the breadth of the topics covered, please check out the recordings of the presentations. Here are three of the presentations from the 2014 Science Summit:

- **Strengthening STEM Industry Involvement in NC Communities**: Justin Miller, Steve Parrott and Brooks Raiford
- **Keynote Address**: Madhu Beriwal, CEO – IEM Inc. (Innovative Emergency Management)
- **Closing Session**: Senator Bob Rucho and Representative Tom Murry, NC General Assembly

For those of you who have not engaged with us on this topic, we’d love to hear your thoughts on the skills and capacities our future workforce will need and the background best suited to cultivate the passion for lifelong learning that is so necessary in a world requiring constant adaptation. Join the conversation now in our Emerging Issues Commons.

As you discuss STEM (STEAM, STHEM, or STEMSS), also think about how you will contribute to our stories campaign next month. We are all writing the ongoing story of North Carolina, and sharing our successes (and our continuing struggles) with each other is how North Carolina will maintain its competitive edge over the next 30 years.

Warmly, Anita