October 2014

**Innovation Reconstructed**

Mark your calendars.

We are delighted to announce the 30th Annual Emerging Issues Forum. Join us February 9-10, 2015, at the Raleigh Convention Center. Registration opens November 3.

The time is right for this serious exploration of big ideas.

Our state’s best innovators are thriving with less control of ideas, new sources of capital, and a mostly mobile workforce. *Innovation Reconstructed* is for leaders of companies, communities, and their partners who are seizing the opportunities offered by new connections and business models. In this Forum you will gather together to learn from global innovation strategy leaders, and from each other. You will walk away with insight about what you must do within and across your organizations. You will build your networks and identify the partnerships you need to succeed. By doing so, you will strengthen our state’s capacity to innovate.

As we always do in developing our annual Forum themes, IEI purposefully gathered groups totaling almost 100 leaders from both public and private sectors and asked them to help us understand the complex landscape for this Forum. We heard strategies and stories from leaders in seven key sectors: agriculture, banking, government, higher education, healthcare, retail and tourism, and technology. Our report on these conversations makes clear how those sectors will
continue to be reshaped and what supports they will need to succeed.

We will utilize the common themes drawn from the sector focus groups to inform a set of community-level focus groups across the state. When these are completed, IEI will turn all of the focus group output over to a Working Group made up of diverse stakeholders and faculty fellows. The Working Group will help design responsive sessions for the Forum. Next month I will ask all of you to help that Working Group set priorities for their efforts. Please stay tuned.

I look forward to seeing you February 9-10, 2015, for this important and timely conversation about how North Carolina’s companies and communities will compete successfully in a future of accelerating everything.

There is a palpable sense of possibility in the air!

Warmly, Anita