We're Innovating: Hope You'll Love New Model for the Forum!

Today, I'm sharing a preview of some exciting innovation at IEI.

As you know, our 2015 Emerging Issues Forum, “Innovation Reconstructed,” made the case that North Carolina’s future economic prosperity depends on boosting our innovation capacity. IEI has now launched six major post-Forum initiatives to help communities across the state to innovate. (I’ve described this ambitious work in earlier issues of this newsletter and I’ll share an important update below.)

But we're innovating internally as well, and I'm excited to share some information with you about the 2016 Emerging Issues Forum.

After decades of a model that has worked exceedingly well, we are upping our game on the Emerging Issues Forum. For the thousands who’ve attended, you know that the Forum is always a powerful experience (a big shout out to those of you who have attended all thirty!). In the years ahead, however, we want it to be even more powerful. How?

We've enhanced the Forum model. On Day 1, the Forum remains at the Raleigh Convention Center, with over 1,000 thought leaders and thousands more joining the conversation virtually. No change there. But on Day 2, we will move hundreds of attendees to the IEI Commons on Centennial Campus for high-level, sector-focused “let’s get it done” sessions. These sessions will offer a richer experience to those who are clamoring for the opportunity to roll up their sleeves with doers

Featured Program: "Summer in the Commons" recap
IEI hosted 1,200 youth this summer to encourage civic engagement! Read more.

Featured Initiative: InnovateNC
Application deadline, selection announcement coming soon!

New! IEI's Civic Engagement Blog
Check out IEI’s new civic engagement blog, led by Daniel Brookshire
from other sectors, regions, and perspectives.


We're also innovating around our brand. This newsletter has a new look, since we've refreshed our brand's visual identity. Our new logo (below) is the first place you'll see this. We like the new look – bright, clear, purposeful – and hope you do, as well.

Let me close with news of an exciting announcement now just weeks out. On Friday, Sept. 4, joined by a dream team of state national and international innovation thought leaders, we'll announce the five communities across the state that we've chosen for InnovateNC. This extraordinary two-year “cross-city collaborative” is a first of a kind in the nation, and it will support the emergence of a new generation of innovation hubs in North Carolina. Keep your eye on InnovateNC here.

Warmly,

Anita

Anita R. Brown-Graham
Director
Institute for Emerging Issues
NC State University
Campus Box 7406
Raleigh, NC 27695-7406