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12.22.2015

Education Newsletter

Educators: Preparing North Carolina's FutureWork(ers)

Each year the Institute for Emerging Issues convenes leaders from across the state at our flagship annual event, the Emerging Issues Forum, where we discuss an issue with profound implications for North Carolina's future prosperity. This year’s Forum, “FutureWork,” looks at increasing technological automation and shifting demography and asks, “How can North Carolina prepare today to create enough good jobs for tomorrow?”

Within two decades, as many as 1.2 million current North Carolina jobs are likely to be lost to automation. Many jobs within the banking/finance, education, energy, health, and public service sectors have already been impacted by advancing automation.

Concerns about future workforce challenges guide teachers across our state in their daily interactions with students. Whether

Feature Educator
This month’s featured educator, Elizabeth Martin, has a passion for creating positive change in her students.

Feature Event:
FutureWork Forum
Register now for IEI's 2016 Forum. Help shape educational responses to the FutureWork challenge!

Call for 2016 Forum Ambassadors
Are you a career counseling professional? Be a 2016 Forum Ambassador, and you’ll attend free! Deadline Dec. 22!
teachers are helping to build the skills desired by future employers or exposing students to new career opportunities, the end goal is to ensure that students are both college- and career-ready.

This year, I have had many opportunities to meet outstanding teachers tackling these challenges and to learn more about some of the innovative initiatives and programs being used to develop our state’s future workforce. Here are a few examples:

- Enloe High School’s Evan Farkas is preparing his 12th grade Civics and Economics students for potential STEM careers by having them tackle some of the world’s most pressing and complicated issues through a research institute simulation. Farkas assigned students to one of eight grand engineering challenges and tasked teams with developing a 10-12 minute documentary detailing their research and an original solution.

- At Greene Central High School, the Student Success Fellows Program involves 40 students considered “at-risk” in a real-world simulation about the skills required for success after graduation.

- Students at Wake Young Women’s Leadership Academy are exposed daily to the “Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership.” Earlier this year they were inspired by a visit from Chelsea Clinton.

- Fayetteville Technical Community College’s new associate degree program in advanced collision repair prepares students to fill the more than 180,000 open positions in the auto collision industry.

- The Z. Smith Reynolds Non-Profit Internship Program is removing barriers to student internships with nonprofits, and building a pipeline for the next generation of leaders.

As 2016 Forum keynote speaker Martin Ford has suggested, education alone will not be sufficient to guarantee that our students can stay ahead of the technology-driven wave of future job losses. Register now to join us at the Forum (February 8-9, 2016, Raleigh) to hear Ford and other national and state thought leaders discuss new models and strategies to position North Carolina as a leader in the global battle for good jobs for tomorrow’s diverse workforce.

Happy holidays and see you in 2016!

Kendall Hageman