FutureWork: Time to Roll Up Our Sleeves!

IEI’s recent 31st Annual Emerging Issues Forum, FutureWork, brought together more than 1,000 educators, business leaders, and policy makers to explore this question: *As technology and demography shift, how can North Carolina prepare today to create enough good jobs for tomorrow?*

Day One of the Forum showcased thought-provoking speakers including Martin Ford, whose book, *Rise of Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future*, was named a No. 1 bestseller by The Financial Times last year. Forum attendees and thousands of remote participants, who joined by watching UNC-TV’s statewide live broadcast on the new North Carolina Channel or via livestream, engaged in live polling and tabletop discussions to prioritize post-Forum strategies for action. The top three: (1) increase equity in our education system, (2) expand project-based learning opportunities, and (3) launch a statewide “Enhanced Career Pathways” public-private initiative.

Featured Educators

This month’s featured educators are our eighty FutureWork Forum Ambassadors!

Featured Event: 2016 FutureWork Forum

Miss the Forum? Full Day One video and much more here!

Feature Articles

Thanks to EducationNC for sharing their perspectives on the topic of "FutureWork" in North Carolina!

Thank you to our 2016 Emerging Issues Forum sponsors for your investment in North Carolina’s future!

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On Day Two, more than 80 career counseling professionals serving as 2016 Forum Ambassadors provided an essential perspective as IEI asked Forum attendees to roll up their sleeves and turn their attention to the “do” of IEI’s “Think and Do” motto. Our Forum Ambassadors, who work with job seekers in high schools, community colleges, universities, NCWorks Career Centers, and other locations, brought real-world insights to five sector-focused “leadership hackathons.” A first for the annual Forum, these participant-driven sessions focused on providing concrete recommendations for how to apply and tailor the prior day’s strategies to address future jobs needs in the areas of finance, education technology, healthcare, energy, rural communities, and government.

As the Forum wrapped up, scores of participants, armed with a prioritized list of strategies and recommended action items, raised their hands to signal their personal commitment to taking action to get to work on building a brighter jobs future for North Carolina. IEI, backed by a generous grant from the Duke Energy Foundation, is already planning post-Forum implementation programming that includes community forums in North Carolina’s eight Prosperity Zones. Stay tuned for more post-Forum work, and learn how you can participate, by clicking here.

Best,

Kendall