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NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Emerging Issues

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#YouthEngageNC

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Monthly Digest

Alecia Page

Welcome to the Institute for Emerging Issues' (IEI) first edition of #YouthEngageNC.

On [November 6, 2015](#), IEI had the pleasure of convening youth specialists, civic engagement enthusiasts, and young leaders from across North Carolina in three strategic locations: Asheville, Raleigh, and Greenville. While the conversation varied from mountains to coast, one thing became abundantly clear: there is value in bringing together a diverse audience to ensure the young citizens of our State have the opportunity to become the most engaged peer group North Carolina has ever known.

What does it mean to be engaged? And, why does it matter?

With your help, we'll be exploring questions like these in depth in editions of this newsletter.



Blog

[This month](#), we discuss the power of youth engagement and its heavy implications for FutureWork. Give us your feedback or tell us your story by commenting.

Join us next month to hear from **Aidil Ortiz Hill**, a youth engagement powerhouse from the experts at Youth Empowered Solutions.

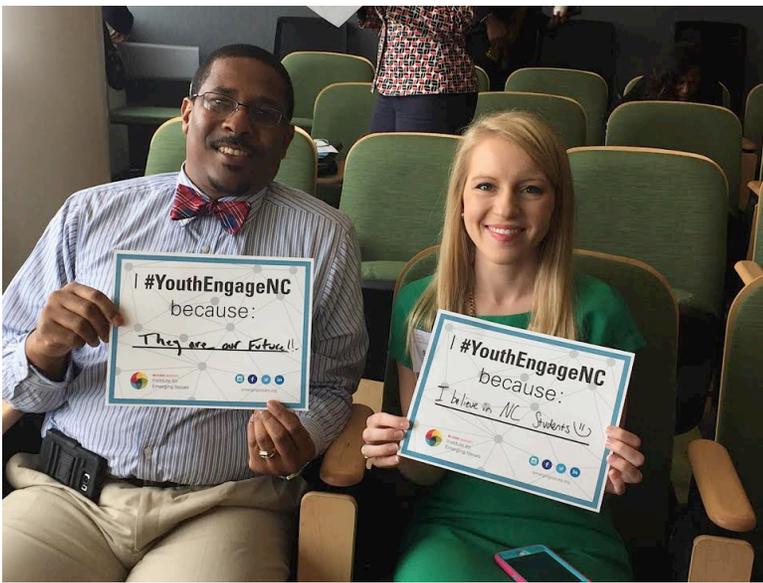
Research

Looking for data on how best to engage youth in your community? Here's what we're reading this week. Feel free to share your favorite youth engagement literature, and we'll share it with our audience in the March newsletter!

[Civic Engagement and the Transition to Adulthood](#)

Constance Flanagan and Peter Levine

[Results-Based Public Policy](#)



Participants of the November 6th #YouthEngageNC Summit expressing their support

In our November convening, IEI focused on two types of engagement highlighted in our [2015 Civic Health Index](#): volunteerism and group participation. Our research illuminated a disturbing fact: fewer than 1 in 5 citizens under the age of 30 will volunteer this year. Volunteering, as explained by organizations like [Opportunity Nation](#), builds community strength, economic power, and individual workforce readiness. Though challenges to engagement abound, we believe we cannot afford to risk so many of our young citizens losing critical development opportunities.

IEI has taken a particular interest in developing future talent, as evidenced in no small part by our upcoming annual Emerging Issues Forum: FutureWork. On February 8th and 9th, we will challenge a diverse body of leaders in North Carolina to develop responsive strategies for the coming wave of automation and technology-driven workforce displacement as well as demographic changes. During the Forum, we will be working directly with some youth engagement specialists who attended our November 6th Summit to create their own plan of action. [Join us](#).

You may be interested to know, also as part of the Forum, IEI is cultivating youth engagement directly through its [Emerging Issues High School Prize for Innovation](#) and [Discovery Forum](#) programs. Both of these social entrepreneurship competitions seek to prepare young citizens to identify key issues in their communities, come up with a solution, and implement an action plan. We hope the experiences help young leaders to develop the creativity and resiliency they will need as entire careers and fields of study disappear from the economy and new opportunities arise in FutureWork.

IEI is also hosting a [blog](#) to highlight best practices and common issues in civic engagement. Every month, one contributed blog will focus on youth engagement specifically.

Whether the Forum, prizes, or blog, we know that our efforts need to

[Strategies For Promoting Youth Civic Engagement](#)

Center for the Study of Social Policy

[Strengthening Communities Through Youth Participation](#)

Center for Nonprofits University of Wisconsin – Madison

Opportunities

Every month, we'll highlight great opportunities for youth to engage across North Carolina. Let us know if you have an opportunity you'd like to share!

[The NC Youth Conservation Corps \(NCYCC\)](#) is accepting applications from youth ages 16 to 24 for 2016 summer crews. NCYCC Corps Member will build and improve hiking trails, parks, recreational facilities and wildlife habitat, make a difference in people's lives, and have the experience of a lifetime. Crew members earn \$9.60 an hour and may be eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award.

Spotlight

We've had the pleasure of partnering with some great organizations in our initial youth engagement work. Reach out to us, and we'll feature your organization in our next issue!

[Activate Good](#)
[Leading to Change](#)
[YouthBuild](#)
[Youth Empowered Solutions](#)

Forum on Live Statewide TV!

This year, for the first time ever, Day 1 of the Emerging Issues Forum, FutureWork, will be broadcast live

focus on supporting the committed, thriving community of youth engagement experts who came together in November to exchange best practices and resources. To that end, we hope that you will reach out to us with your events, your tools, your questions, and your stories so that we can do what we do best: *connect* you to other professionals, *think* with you about your obstacles and opportunities, and *do* whatever it takes to ensure access to meaningful engagement opportunities for youth in every community.

Now, let's get engaged.



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statewide on the [North Carolina Channel](#), a new service of UNC-TV focusing on civic affairs and other non-fiction content relevant to the state.

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