Mission
IEI serves as a nonpartisan connector, bringing North Carolinians together across sectors, regions, and perspectives to collaborate on finding solutions to the state’s emerging and most critical policy issues resulting in a more vibrant and prosperous North Carolina.

Vision
A North Carolina where people connect and collaborate to build a vibrant and prosperous future for all.

EMERGING ISSUES FORUM
The 2022 Emerging Issues Forum brought together local, state and national leaders to discuss the state’s educational attainment gap.

4 day virtual forum
429 attendees
97% respondents who learned something they intended to use in the coming year

ENDOWMENTS & GRANTS
IEI received its first two endowments:

1 A gift from the Tony McLean Brown family that will enable IEI to continue to tackle the state’s most critical policy issues.

2 A gift from Gov. James B Hunt and his wife, Carolyn, that will fund IEI’s Hunt Internship.

3 IEI received a $440,749 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to support Talent First Economics, the program of work for the 2023 Emerging Issues Forum that will examine ways to overcome barriers to employment.

BETTER 2GETHER
In honor of 2-22-22, IEI celebrated 22 local leaders who are making North Carolina a better place to work, learn and grow.
BAND-NC continued its mission to expand digital inclusion in North Carolina.

Number of $5k digital inclusion planning grants awarded - 11
Kick-off events for western regional planning efforts - 3
From Dogwood Health Trust to support digital inclusion planning efforts in 18 western counties - 2M
Counties supported by $225,000 from State Employees Credit Union Foundation - 20

Project Resilience continued to identify public policy, programs and community practices that address financial resilience challenges faced by North Carolinians.

Organizations met with to better understand how fulfillment of basic needs promotes resilience - 12+
Focused scope of work around employment, debt and medical coverage - $3

Rural Faith Communities as Anchor Institutions continued its work to fold rural faith leaders into statewide discussions on emerging issues across the state.

Faith leaders and partners attended the 2022 Forum, RFCAI conference and other meetings - 140+
Virtual meetups and partnership meetings held - 60+
Faith leaders and partners engaged in faith and community network across NC - 560+
From the Duke Endowment for continued efforts to engage with rural faith community - 2M

STAFF UPDATES

Retirement
Leslie Boney retired as director. Sarah Langer Hall named interim director.

New Hires
- Philip Cooper named practitioner in residence (time limited)
- Colin Fox named digital inclusion fellow (time limited)
- Jennifer Heiss named communications director
- Julia Kardos named special projects coordinator
- Shevani Mehta named first Hunt Intern

Service Updates
- Alicia James named vice chair for the NC State Staff Senate
- Davina Thrash named to the NC State Council on the Status of Women

NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

New Board Members
- Suzanne Walsh, president, Bennett College
- Kevin Price, president and CEO, The Institute
- Cheryl Parquet, community relations director, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina