



The **IMPACT** of LNC

Connection is at IEI's Core

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

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



Disconnection - **then**

- Declining volunteerism
- Diverging geographic growth
- Increasing underemployment
- Persistent Digital Divide
- Skyrocketing "deaths of despair"





Finding A New Middle

Re
CONNECT
to Community

ASHEVILLE

NOV '18
27

Re
CONNECT
to Rural & Urban

RALEIGH

FEB '19
11

Re
CONNECT
to Economic
Opportunity

CHARLOTTE

OCT '19
15

Re
CONNECT
to Technological
Opportunity

RALEIGH

FEB '20
10

Re
CONNECT
to Impact on Higher Education
and the Future of Work

WEBINAR

SEP '20
24

Re
CONNECT
to a Digitally Inclusive
North Carolina

WEBINAR

OCT '20
15

Re
CONNECT
to Mental Health
and Well-being

WEBINAR

OCT '20
29

Re
CONNECT
for the Future

WEBINAR

FEB '21
15-18

Increase the number of people performing **service years** to 2,000 and boost annual support to them and their host organizations by \$2,000.

Make NC the first state in the nation where every county has a **digital inclusion** plan.

5 Strategies to ReCONNECT NC

Create the model for a **NC Regional Exchange** that builds deeper relationships within an inter-connected region.

A **wraparound support services** referral program in a 2 or 4-year **higher education** institution within a 30 minute drive of every North Carolinian.

Expand access to **peer-operated alternatives** for treatment of mental illness.



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Emerging Issues

Disconnection - **now**

- Racial Reckoning
- Deepening Distrust and Violence
- Persistent Pandemic





Five key tasks to address disconnection:

1. Shift in values: we need to value solidarity as much as achievement and community as much as self.
2. Learn the skill of seeing each other better: seeing others deeply and deeply being seen.
3. Build the social architecture: celebrate those connecting our social fabric.
4. Formative institutions: those that support moral formation and build character.
5. Organizations where we learn to reason together: have some common realities that allow us to weigh evidence

CAMPUS

CONVERSATIONS

PROJECT

Cultivates a campus culture built on mutuality, respect, and democratic citizenship/engagement.

Provides a framework for civic conversations on campus and across the State of NC.

Equips students with skills as citizens and as leaders of systems into which they graduate: businesses, organizations, communities, and families.

Civic Conversations

- Time together in real and rich conversation on a topic that is concerning you or your community.
- All parties listen first to understand.
- Goal:
 - IS: Learn from each other, build relationships, and identify opportunities to bridge divides in our state/communities
 - IS NOT: Moving any particular agenda forward



Let's Practice!

LivingRoom Conversations



LRC Conversation Agreements

- Be curious and listen to understand
- Show respect and suspend judgement
- Note any common ground as well as any differences
- Be authentic and welcome that from others
- Be purposeful and to the point
- Own and guide the conversation



What's Next?

- Learn more and practice!



- Host a civic conversation in your community.

