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Harper College Environmental Scan

NIU Center for Governmental Studies
Outreach, Engagement, and Information Technologies

INTRODUCTION

- Who We Are

- Purpose of the Scan:
  data→information→knowledge

- Deliverables

- Methodology

Harper College Strategic Plan

- "Building Community through Student Success"
- 2010-2015 Strategic Plan
- Broad input from outside and within Harper
- Produced four strategic directions:
  - Inspiration
  - Partnership
  - Accountability
  - Completion
- These served as the framework for the scan

10,604 Students!

Fiscal/demographic context

- Bleak fiscal backdrop

- Healthcare and pension funding impacting higher ed

- ARRA funds winding down

- Uncertain future – tough questions

- Stable, predominantly white population with declining real income

INSPIRATION

Inspiration

- **Inspire all students to seek postsecondary opportunities; align P-20 curriculum**

- **Scan data elements:**

  – Educational Attainment

  – Unemployment

  – Commuting Patterns and Gas Prices

  – Common Core Standards

  – Innovative Models

PARTNERSHIP

Partnership

- **Create "stackable" career and academic pathways**

- **Integrate career readiness skills into education and training programs**

- **Scan data elements:**

  – Occupational Projections

  – Industry Location Quotients (LQs)

  – Future Work Skills

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability

- **Identify funding and leverage partner resources**

- **Identify, monitor, and publish results on strategic goals**

- **Scan data elements:**

  - Availability of funding

  - New accountability measures

  - State data system initiatives

COMPLETION

Completion

- **Decrease student achievement gaps**
- **Increase percentage of freshmen who begin in credit courses**
- **Increase the number of certificate and degree completers**
- **Scan data elements:**
  - Income and poverty
  - K-12 student achievement data
  - Competition
  - Technology

How might information from the scan inform Harper's planning and operations?

- **Future Workplace Skills**
- **K-12 Partnerships**
- **Economic Climate/Affordability**
- **Adult Market**
- **Growth Occupations**
- **Commuter Population**
- **Changing Demographics**
- **Technology**
- **Competition**