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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

• 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

- 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

• 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
Leadership Team Results

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