



Harper College Environmental Scan 2014

Prepared by Sherrie Taylor & Diana Robinson,
Northern Illinois University



Environmental scanning process

- ❖ Purpose of the Harper College Environmental Scan
- ❖ Collection of data on external demographic, economic and societal changes
- ❖ Analysis of the data to determine regional uniqueness and trends
- ❖ Compilation of information to tell a story

Key Trends and Considerations

- Employment & Work Force
- District Demographics
- Financing of the College
- Sender Districts
- Technology
- Sustainability



Employment & Work Force

- Wages beginning to improve
- CPI steady
- Energy costs decreasing
- Unemployment declining
- Changes in occupations
- Commuter patterns



District Demographics

- Increased diversity
 - Racial changes
 - Immigration
 - Age
- Loss of household buying power



Financing of the College

- Underfunded pension system impact
 - Tax burden
 - 15.6% increase in support?
- Financial aid declining
 - State-level cutbacks
 - Higher tuition rates



Sender Districts

- Decreased enrollment
- Increased diversity
- PSAE results high
- Performance indicators doing very well



Technology

- MOOCs facing challenges
- Online enrollment increasing
- Faculty technology aptitude a challenge
- Data security issues
- New methods of pedagogy
- Student analytics



Sustainability

- Global impacts on local resources
- Local consumer behavior





Any Questions?

Thank you!

Sherrie Taylor, MPA

and Diana Robinson, Director

Center for Governmental Studies,
Northern Illinois University



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Center for
Governmental Studies**

Outreach, Engagement, and Regional Development