



Returning *Prosperity* to America's *Heartland*
Building a Shared Vision for Our Region's Future

Dec 10-11 | 2009
Conference Program

40th anniversary
NIU Center for Governmental Studies
NIU Outreach



NORTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

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Dear Regional Leader:

On behalf of Northern Illinois University, I am delighted to welcome you to this unique gathering of leaders from our region in honor of the 40th anniversary of our Outreach Division's Center for Governmental Studies (CGS). As a public research university, NIU has a deep commitment to serving the region and CGS has been contributing to that role since 1969.

The agenda for the next two days reflects the kind of innovative, interdisciplinary approach used by CGS in its applied research, public service, and public policy development projects for clients in our region, across the U.S. and around the world.

Thank you for joining us for these two days. We intend to challenge your thinking about our region's future and to capture the full advantage of your expertise, your creativity, and your insight in the document that will be produced during the final session just after lunch on Friday.

This is important work. Restoring prosperity in the American Heartland is essential to the future of our state and our nation. The challenges we face are enormous, but our assets are extraordinary. We need to work together in new ways if we want to maximize the quality of life for all of our communities as the 21st century unfolds. I am eager to see the results of these two days of thoughtful discussion and collaboration. I thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John G. Peters".

John G. Peters

President, Northern Illinois University

1:30–1:45 pm

Welcome

Anne Kaplan

Vice President, NIU Administration and University Outreach

CARL SANDBURG AUDITORIUM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

1:45–3:30 pm

Opening Plenary Session

How Will We Grow in the Coming Decades?

CARL SANDBURG AUDITORIUM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

OPTIONS FOR BUILDING OUR REGION

What scale and scope of new growth can we expect over the next few decades? What options do we have to shape our patterns of growth and to benefit from the process?

THE ENGINES OF GROWTH

What new technologies will drive the world's next wave of economic growth? How does our region use these growth engines to improve our prosperity?

PRESENTERS

Arthur C. Nelson

Presidential Professor, Director of the Metropolitan Research Center at the University of Utah

Richard Silbergliitt

Senior Physical Scientist, RAND Corporation

PANEL

Randy Blankenhorn

Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Promod Vohra

Dean, NIU College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

MODERATOR

Robert E. Gleeson

Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

3:30–3:45 pm

Break

OUTSIDE THE CARL SANDBURG AUDITORIUM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

3:45–5:30 pm **Concurrent Issue Sessions**

Session A *Pathways to Regional Prosperity*

CAPITOL ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

What portfolio of regional economic development strategies do we need at the local, state, and regional levels to manage our way to prosperity? What can we learn from other regions about how we encourage entrepreneurship and new private, and public-private, business models that will create prosperity for our residents? How well positioned are our regional sectors and clusters to participate in the growth that emerging new technologies will spark?

PRESENTERS **Zoltan Acs**

Director, Center for Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, George Mason University

Ed Morrison

Economic Policy Advisor, Purdue University Center for Regional Development

PANEL **Janyce Fadden**

President, Rockford Area Economic Development Council

John Greuling

President and CEO, Will County Center for Economic Development

Henry Sanders

Founder and President, Propel Wisconsin Innovation

MODERATOR **Norman Walzer**

Senior Research Scholar, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

Session B *Energy Conservation, Environmental Sensitivity, and Efficiency*

HERITAGE ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

What policies are needed to retrofit the current built environment to accommodate the environmental and economic realities of the future? These realities include promoting energy conservation and environmental sustainability, balancing environmental sensitivity and fiscal responsibility in our land development, and building infrastructure that adds value to our natural environment.

PRESENTER **Douglas Farr**
Founding Principal, Farr Associates

PANEL **Ty Warner**
Principal, Comprehensive Regional Planning, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Brook McDonald
President and CEO, The Conservation Foundation

Jane Tompkins
Director of Community Development, Village of Montgomery, Illinois

MODERATOR **Roger Dahlstrom**
Assistant Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

6:00–9:00 pm **Social Hour, Dinner, and Speaker**

BARSEMA ALUMNI CENTER

(Transportation will be provided between the Holmes Student Center and the Barsema Alumni Center)

SPEAKER **Christopher Steiner**
Author, *\$20 Per Gallon: How the Inevitable Rise in the Price of Gasoline Will Change Our Lives for the Better*

Mr. Steiner, a senior staff reporter at *Forbes* magazine, predicts that surging fuel prices will transform the daily lives of Americans almost beyond recognition. He will address society's relationship with energy and what the future holds for us.

A book signing will be held after dinner.

7:30–8:30 am **Continental Breakfast and
Preview of the Illinois Policy Survey Results**

REGENCY ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

PRESENTERS **Barbara Burrell**

Director of Graduate Studies, NIU Department of Political Science; Co-Director, Illinois Policy Survey

Mike Peddle

Assistant Chair, NIU Department of Political Science; Co-Director, Illinois Policy Survey

8:30–10:15 am **Concurrent Issue Sessions**

Session A *Governing the Heartland in 2025*

SKY ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

Our current government paradigm is founded on two concepts: local sovereignty and local decision-making. How will our units of government respond and adapt to the growing list of issues that require cooperation across jurisdictional lines? What changes in public policy are needed to encourage local units of government and non-profits to collaborate more systematically on issues that are best addressed on a regional basis? What role do non-governmental organizations have in public policy? These and other governance questions will be addressed and examples of promising models and strategies for regional cooperation will be examined.

PRESENTERS **Lyle Wray**

Executive Director, Capitol Regional Council of Governments, (Hartford, Connecticut)

William R. Dodge

Principal, Regional Excellence Consulting

PANEL **David Limardi**

City Manager, Highland Park; Immediate Past President, Int'l City/County Management Association

Patrick Urich

County Administrator, Peoria County; President, National Association of County Administrators

Kurt Thurmaier

Director, NIU Division of Public Administration

MODERATOR **Greg Kuhn**

Assistant Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

Session B *The Evolving Role of Higher Education in Regional Innovation Development*

CAPITOL ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

Most people think of technology transfer when asked how universities can support innovation in their communities. However, by exchanging innovation in all of its forms—know-how, expertise, skills, and people, as well as technology—with the commercial, public, and service sectors, higher education institutions can contribute to regional prosperity, quality of life, and cultural enrichment. This session will examine leading practices in knowledge exchange and consider how northern Illinois can best leverage our region's assets.

PRESENTERS **Kevin Cullen**

Director of Research and Enterprise, University of Glasgow

Liam Leightley

Executive Director, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

PANEL **Raymond W. Alden III**

Provost and Executive Vice President, NIU

Trudy Bers

Director, Research, Curriculum and Planning, Oakton Community College

Dan Swinney

Executive Director, Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council;

Founder and Director, Center for Labor and Community Research

MODERATOR **Diana Robinson**

Associate Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

10:15–10:30 am **Break**

OUTSIDE THE SKY AND CAPITOL ROOMS

10:30 am–Noon **Small Discussion Groups**

Small groups will be assisted by a professional facilitator and a note-taker to generate specific, pragmatic ideas for action.

DAY 12.11.2009
02 Friday

Noon–1:00 pm **Lunch**

REGENCY ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

SPEAKER **John G. Peters**
President, Northern Illinois University

1:00–3:00 pm **Group Strategic Agenda Development**

REGENCY ROOM, HOLMES STUDENT CENTER

FACILITATOR **Robert E. Gleeson**
Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

All guests will participate in an enjoyable group process that will tie together all of the previous discussions and will create the first draft of a shared vision and a Regional Action Plan to restore prosperity to the region.

3:00 pm **Adjourn**

Acknowledgments

The Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University wishes to acknowledge the distinguished leaders who have directed the work of CGS over the past 40 years, the countless NIU faculty and staff who have shaped and supported our work, and the hundreds of clients and partners who have given us opportunities to help inform the public choices they make.

connecting. collaborating. creating solutions.