

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

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Presenter, Panelist
& Moderator

BIOGRAPHIES

40th anniversary
NIU Center for
Governmental Studies
NIU Outreach

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Presenter Biographies

Zoltan Acs

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

Acs is a leading advocate of the importance of entrepreneurship for economic development. He is coeditor and founder of *Small Business Economics*, the leading entrepreneurship and small business publication in the world. Previous positions include Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the University of Baltimore's School of Business, Research Fellow at the U. S. Census Bureau and Chief Economic Advisor at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). While at the SBA, he provided direction for research on economic trends and furnished economic advice and counsel for important governmental action decisions as they affect small business. He has published more than 100 articles and 20 books and is completing a research project on the role new firms play in technology spillovers and economic growth. He is a Research Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Economics in Jena, Germany, and Scholar-in-Residence at the Kauffman Foundation where he is developing public policies that promote an entrepreneurial economy.

Barbara Burrell

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

Barbara Burrell is a professor of Political Science, Director of Graduate Studies in the Political Science Department of Northern Illinois University, and faculty associate in the Women's Studies Program. She formerly was Associate Director of the Public Opinion Laboratory at NIU. Burrell is the author of *A Woman's*

Place Is in the House: Campaigning for Congress in the Feminist Era, published by the University of Michigan Press in 1994. She is also the author of *Public Opinion, the First Ladyship and Hillary Rodham Clinton*, published by Routledge Press in 2001. She has a forthcoming book, *Gender in Campaigns for the U.S. Congress at the Millennium*, which will be published by the University of Michigan Press in 2010. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Kevin Cullen

Director, Research and Enterprise, University of Glasgow

Kevin Cullen has been Director of Research and Enterprise at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, since 2003, working to develop the university's research strategy and to develop and implement its knowledge transfer. He joined the university in 1999 after working at Heriot-Watt University, where he was responsible for devising and implementing commercialization strategy. Cullen has also worked for Procter & Gamble in the United Kingdom and Belgium in technical brand management, product development, and technology development, covering Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. He has acted as an external expert and consultant in a number of international projects and is past president of UNICO, the U.K. technology transfer body. He is currently Vice President for both ASTP, Europe's leading technology transfer association and for the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), the world's largest academic technology transfer association. Cullen received a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry from the University of Edinburgh.

William R. Dodge

Principal, Regional Excellence Consulting

William R. (Bill) Dodge has assisted community leaders and citizens to foster regional cooperation and build successful regional communities over the past three decades. He authors a column, *Regional Excellence*, for various publications and national websites. As Executive Director of the National Association of Regional Councils, Dodge provided information, tools and techniques to regional councils of governments and represented their interests before Congress and federal agencies. He has held senior management positions in local, state and national government and directed private, academic, and civic organizations. He co-authored *Shaping a Region's Future: A Guide to Strategic Decision Making for Regions* and wrote *Regional Excellence: Governing Together to Compete Globally and Flourish Locally*. He is writing a new book on the key components to building renewable regions. Dodge holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering (Cornell University) and a master's degree in foreign affairs and economics (University of Virginia).

Douglas Farr

Founding Principal, Farr Associates

Doug Farr, AIA, LEED AP, is the founding principal of Farr Associates, an award-winning architecture and planning firm. Having a mission to design sustainable human environments, Farr's niche is in applying the principles of LEED at the scale of the neighborhood and in designing green buildings exclusively for urban contexts. Farr Associates designed three LEED-Platinum buildings which stand as models of urban architectural sustainability. An architecture graduate of the University

of Michigan and Columbia University, Farr's work has been featured in *Architectural Record*, the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune* and the PBS documentary "*The Green Machine*." Doug is on the board of the Congress for the New Urbanism, serves on the BioRegional Development Group board of directors, on the Energy and Climate TAC of the Star Community Index, and was the founding chair of the LEED Neighborhood Development project. He authored *Sustainable Urbanism: Urban Design with Nature*, a planning best seller.

Anne Kaplan

Vice President, NIU Administration and University Outreach

Anne Kaplan's division includes Information Technology Services, NIU Outreach, and Northern Public Radio, all units that are actively engaged with communities across the region and the nation. An historian by training, Kaplan has served NIU's Presidents and Provosts for 35 years. She played a central role in developing the three NIU Outreach centers in Hoffman Estates, Naperville, and Rockford, and in establishing the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. She is currently active at the national level on commissions attempting to develop tools for assessing a university's contribution to the economic development of its region and toolkits to help practitioners design, develop, implement, and evaluate community and economic development initiatives. With her leadership in the division and across the university, NIU received the Carnegie designation for Community Engagement in 2008.

Liam Leightley

Executive Director, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR)

Liam Leightley has held both academic and university-related administrative positions at institutions in the U.S. and abroad. Before joining IALR, he worked at Mississippi State University as the head of the Department of Forest Products and most recently as the Interim Director of the Forest and Wildlife Center. He also worked for Rohm and Haas, one of the world's largest global specialty chemical companies, where his responsibilities included strategic research programs in the USA and in Japan, global product development, and

brand marketing management. Leightley currently chairs the Southern Alliance for the Utilization of Biomass Resources, co-chairs the South East Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources Alliance, serves on the Southern Technology Council, and is a past Director of the Institute for Furniture Manufacturing and Management. The IALR serves as a catalyst for economic and community transformation in southern Virginia by providing strategic research and education in partnership with Virginia Tech, Averett University, and Danville Community College.

Ed Morrison

Economic Policy Advisor, Purdue University Center for Regional Development

Ed Morrison is a member of the staff of the Center for Regional Development at Purdue University and Economic Policy Advisor for the federal Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative in North Central Indiana. For over 19 years Morrison has been conducting strategy projects with economic developers in the U.S. He is the founder of the Institute for Open Economic Networks and publisher of EDPro, a weblog for economic development professionals. Morrison developed Open Source Economic Development, a new model for economic development that promotes the development of open innovation networks to accelerate regional development. He is applying this model in Indiana, Northeast Ohio, and the Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Morrison founded the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana and has consulted on university research and technology transfer. He managed the community assessment program for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development and has taught economic development strategy at the University of Oklahoma.

Arthur C. Nelson

Director, Presidential Professor and Director, Metropolitan Research Center, University of Utah

Arthur "Chris" Nelson is the author of more than 20 books (several translated into foreign languages) and more than 300 other scholarly and professional works. His research and practice have shaped public development policy

and private real estate investment strategies. His insights have appeared on the front page of *USA Today* and the *Wall Street Journal*, have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *Time* magazine, and broadcast on the *CBS Evening News*. Prior to joining Utah, Nelson served for 15 years at Georgia Tech and then for six years at Virginia Tech where he founded the Urban Affairs and Planning program at its Alexandria Center and co-directed the Metropolitan Institute. Nelson has received teaching and research awards at every university he has served and his students have won numerous prestigious national awards. His current research is on development trends that will reshape metropolitan areas to mid-century.

Mike Peddle

Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, NIU; Co-Director, Illinois Policy Survey

Mike Peddle is an economist and accountant by training with expertise in strategic financial planning, economic development, growth management, and survey research in state and local government, non-profit, and business settings. He has been on the faculties of Northwestern University, College of the Holy Cross, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Northern Illinois University. He has taught in the Division of Public Administration at NIU since 1990, specializing in public finance, financial management, local economic development policy, and methodology. He has co-directed the Illinois Policy Survey since 2003. He currently chairs the City of DeKalb's Finance Advisory Committee and is a member of the Board of Directors and the Finance Chair for Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. Peddle has a B.A. in Economics and an M.P.A. from Drake University, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University and passed the National Uniform CPA examination in 1990.

John Peters

President, Northern Illinois University

John Peters is the eleventh president of NIU, a post he has held since June 2000. As NIU's chief executive officer, Peters provides strategic direction and oversight for a nationally recognized, comprehensive university serving more

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than 25,000 students in 120 areas of study at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Prior to NIU, Peters was provost and chief operating officer at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. His academic career includes 20 years in teaching and administrative roles at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He currently serves on the Executive Committee for the NCAA and has chaired the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents. Specializing in studies of public policy and Congress, he has published widely and has co-edited two books on American politics. Peters earned his bachelor's degree in political science at Cleveland's John Carroll University, a master's in government from Ohio University in Athens, and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Richard Silbergliitt Senior Physical Scientist, RAND Corporation

Richard Silbergliitt has worked in academia, government, and private industry for more than 30 years performing, evaluating, and managing research in ceramics, magnetic materials, superconductivity, joining of advanced materials, microwave processing of materials, nuclear energy, and other advanced technology areas. Since joining RAND in 2000, Silbergliitt has been the lead author of recent technology foresight studies for China's Tianjin Binhai area and in 2001 co-authored *The Global Technology Revolution*, an exploration of global trends in biotechnology, nanotechnology, and materials technology and their synergies with information technology. He has lectured widely on emerging technologies in the U.S. and Asia, has published over 100 journal and proceedings articles and reports, and holds patents on microwave-assisted chemical vapor infiltration and electron beam joining of metals and ceramics. Silbergliitt holds a B. S. in physics with high honor from Stevens Institute of Technology and an M.S. and Ph. D. in solid state physics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Christopher Steiner

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

Intrigued by rising gasoline prices in spring 2008, Christopher Steiner conceived of the concept for his *New York Times* Bestseller *\$20 Per Gallon* when he wondered, simply, how will our lives change in a future of higher gas prices? A civil engineer and a staff writer at *Forbes* who regularly reports on energy, technology and innovation, Steiner researched the question. His examination roamed from Manhattan tunnels to desert plane graveyards to organic farm fields and manifested in his book, which breaks down our future and its coming changes in terms of dollars per gallon. Before his first reporting job at the *Chicago Tribune*, Steiner worked as a civil-environmental engineer in San Francisco and Park City, Utah. He holds degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Northwestern University.

Lyle Wray

Executive Director,
Capitol Regional Council of Governments

Wray became Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments based in Hartford, Connecticut in 2004. Prior to that he served as Director of the Ventura County Civic Alliance based in Camarillo, California for one year. From 1992 to 2003 he served as Executive Director of the Citizens League. Prior to joining the staff of the Citizens League, he served as County Administrator and Human Services Director in Dakota County, Minnesota, that state's third most populous county. Wray was director of the quality assurance and protective services division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services; compliance monitor for the Welsh Consent Decree issued by the United States District Court; program director in developmental disabilities at the Brainerd Regional Treatment Center; and mental retardation services division director in the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Department of Social Services. His professional interests include e-government, outcomes measurement, and public service redesign.

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Panelist and Moderator Biographies

Raymond W. Alden III

Provost and Executive Vice President, NIU

Alden was appointed Executive Vice President and Provost at Northern Illinois University in 2006. He received a B.A./B.S. in Biology from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida and a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Florida. Alden spent nearly a decade at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, first as dean of sciences, then as the chief academic officer. Prior to that he spent 21 years at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia where he served on the faculty and, during the last 15 years, as director of ODU's multidisciplinary Applied Marine Research Laboratory.

Trudy Bers

Executive Director, Research, Curriculum and Planning, Oakton Community College

Bers earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois-Urbana, and holds an M.B.A. from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, an A.M. in Public Law and Government from Columbia University, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois-Urbana. She has been at Oakton since it opened in 1970 and has been involved in a variety of projects, serves as executive assistant and special advisor to the president, and represents the College in a number of external organizations. Dr. Bers' research interests include the community college, the assessment of student learning outcomes, and college choice for community college students and their parents. She has held leadership positions in a number of national and state postsecondary research associations and advisory committees. She has published more than 45 articles in professional journals and has presented extensively at professional conferences.

Randy Blankenhorn

Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Blankenhorn has over 20 years experience in the planning, development, and implementation of transportation infrastructure projects for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and other state agencies. As IDOT Bureau Chief of Urban Program Planning, he coordinated the activities of 14 metropolitan planning organizations across Illinois. The director of CMAP since 2006, Blankenhorn now oversees land use and transportation planning across seven northeastern Illinois counties (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will), including the development of GOTO 2040, metropolitan Chicago's first truly comprehensive regional plan. He has served in various leadership capacities in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, including an appointment to a policy team that will help shape the findings of two Congressionally-created National Commissions on Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Illinois State University and has completed 36 hours of graduate work in political studies at the University of Illinois-Springfield.

Roger Dahlstrom

Assistant Director, NIU Center for Governmental Studies

Dahlstrom specializes in the preparation and coordination of community planning and development projects and programs including growth management, land use planning and zoning, capital improvement programming, community and fiscal impact analysis, development impact fee analysis and design, development agreements,

and tax increment financing. He has 30 years of city planning experience including 17 years as the Director of Planning for the City of Elgin, Illinois. Dahlstrom has published work on site and land capacity analysis, growth management, and local economic development planning. He also serves as a local government representative assisting the Illinois Municipal League in evaluating development impact fee issues. His recent work includes a Balanced Growth Study for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, a Comprehensive Fiscal Impact Study for the City of Sycamore, Illinois and a Boone Creek Watershed Growth Management Study for the Nature Conservancy. He received his M.S. in Urban and Economic Geography from Northern Illinois University.

Janyce Fadden

President, Rockford Area Economic Development Council

Fadden is responsible for managing all of the Council's efforts, including business retention and expansion, new business recruitment, and improving the business climate of our region. She serves on the boards of the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Rockford Area Ventures, Rockford Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Local Development Corporation, and Stateline Angels. She also serves on the City of Rockford Sister City Advisory Commission, the executive committee of Northern Illinois Commuter Transportation Initiative, and the steering committee of the Tri-State Alliance, and is Executive Director of the I-39 Logistics Corridor Association. Fadden earned her B.S. degree in Engineering and Management from Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, and she earned her M.B.A. degree from Northern Illinois University.

Panelist and Moderator Biographies

Robert E. Gleeson
Director, NIU Center for
Governmental Studies

Gleeson has directed NIU's Center for Governmental Studies since 2003. He also serves as one of three Co-Directors of the PASCAL International Observatory, a global network of researchers and regional government officials who share common interests in place management, social capital, and learning regions. Prior to joining NIU, Gleeson was Associate Professor of Management and Public Policy and Faculty Director of the Institute for Economic Transformation at Duquesne University's Graduate School of Business in Pittsburgh, PA. Previous positions have also included founding Executive Director of the Center for Economic Development at Carnegie Mellon University, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Robotics Initiative, Director of Economic Development for the Pittsburgh High Technology Council, and Business Strategy Consultant for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Gleeson earned a B.S. degree in applied history and management from Carnegie Mellon University, an M.P.P. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Ph.D. in history and policy from Carnegie Mellon.

John Greuling
President and CEO, Will County Center for
Economic Development

Greuling has been an economic development practitioner for 34 years. His specialty is the recruitment of large capital-intensive, high job-generating projects, as well as major public infrastructure developments. Greuling has held positions with the City of Edwardsville; Eastern Division of Central Illinois Public Service Company; Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development of the Bloomington-Normal Area; Colorado Office of Business Development; Southeast Denver/Douglas County Economic Development Council; Greensboro Area Chamber of Commerce; and InterMountain/RKH. He is involved with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning, Illinois Development Council, Metropolitan Economic Growth Alliance, Will County Workforce Investment Board, and Will County Community Foundation. He

has a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Illinois State University and a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Gregory T. Kuhn
Assistant Director,
NIU Center for Governmental Studies

Kuhn has 25 years of combined experience in government administration, consulting, and academics. Kuhn specializes in organizational studies, strategic planning, leadership, budgeting and public policy formulation. He is a graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and holds both a Doctorate and master's degree in Public Administration and Political Science from NIU. Kuhn serves as an adjunct faculty member of NIU's Division of Public Administration and Northwestern University's (NU's) Graduate Program in Public Policy and Public Administration. He teaches leadership and strategic planning at both NIU and NU and has assisted as a faculty advisor for NU's emerging MPPA curriculum. One of Kuhn's research interests is leadership in governmental settings. He recently presented the results of a study he conducted on Leadership Patterns and Practices for Urban Public Executives at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

David Limardi
City Manager, Highland Park; Immediate
Past President, International City/County
Management Association

Limardi began his professional career in public administration in 1977 as Assistant to the Village Manager of Wilmette. After increasingly senior positions in Wilmette and Lincolnshire, he was appointed the City Manager of Highland Park in 1993, the position he currently holds. Limardi has served on various ICMA boards and committees and has received ICMA's Award for Program Excellence for Intergovernmental Cooperation in 1992, Special Service awards in 1998 and 2005, two Voice of the People awards in 2006 for Excellence and Transformation and a Certificate of Achievement for continuing efforts in measuring and improving the City of Highland Park's local government performance in 2009. Limardi is an adjunct professor with

Northwestern University where he teaches classes on public financing and budgeting, land use planning, and executive leadership. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Marquette University and a master's in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

Brook McDonald
President and CEO,
The Conservation Foundation

McDonald has led the Foundation, a not-for-profit land and watershed protection agency headquartered in Naperville, Illinois, in its efforts to protect open space, clean our rivers and streams, and other conservation initiatives. In the last ten years, the Foundation has helped preserve more than 25,000 acres of open space and has greatly expanded its river protection program. He also led the effort to expand the Foundation's geographic service area to include DeKalb, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, LaSalle, and Will Counties and to expand programs in DuPage County. McDonald has worked with the Warrenville Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, the National Association for Interpretation, the Illinois Environmental Council, the Campaign for Sensible Growth, and the DuPage Environmental Commission. McDonald received his M.S. in Natural Resources from Ohio State University and his B.S. in Life Sciences from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio.

Diana Robinson
Associate Director,
NIU Center for Governmental Studies

Robinson leads the Center's practice on workforce development and human services. In addition to managing a portfolio of applied research, program evaluation, and strategic planning projects, she is co-directing an international comparative research on the role of universities in sustainable regional development with the Observatory PASCAL. Robinson served as Deputy Superintendent at the Illinois State Board of Education and was responsible for programs in school-to-careers, alternative education, service learning, family literacy, parental involvement and other areas requiring effective partnerships between schools, communities and businesses. She also was Vice President for the Midwest

Regional Office of the National Alliance of Business, managed National Academy Foundation model youth apprenticeship programs in financial services and travel and tourism, and worked in various research and policy positions for the City of Chicago. Robinson holds a master's degree in social development from the University of Chicago and is working on her doctorate in adult education at NIU.

Henry Sanders, Jr.

Founder and President,
Propel Wisconsin Innovation

Sanders has launched two companies: Capacity-360 and Talent-360. Capacity-360 helps small- and mid-size biotech companies build capacity through government funding, political auditing, and business strategy and has achieved an average government appropriations rate of return for biotech clients of 13.4 times the investments. Sanders founded the Madison Area Growth Network which works to attract and retain skilled young professionals in the Madison area. He served as Vice President of Economic Development and Public Policy at the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, where he built that organization's public policy department and started its Small Business Advisory Council. Henry was recently appointed by the Governor to the Wisconsin Council on Workforce Development. He currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Wisconsin Black Caucus. He also serves on the Regional Economic Development Collaboration Council and the UW-Whitewater Alumni Board.

Dan Swinney

Executive Director, Chicago Manufacturing Renaissance Council; Founder and Director, Center for Labor and Community Research Swinney has 13 years experience as a machinist and union leader and 27 years of experience in facing the challenges and advocating for the manufacturing community. He founded the Center for Labor and Community Research (CLCR) in 1982 in response to the thousands of manufacturing plant closings in the Chicago area. CLCR specializes in developing innovative and effective High Road approaches to community development, industrial job retention, workforce education, and business development. The Chicago Manufacturing

Renaissance Council brings together business, labor, governmental, and community leadership around development strategy and capacity on High Road/High Performance manufacturing. Swinney founded a new public high school in Chicago, Austin Polytechnical Academy, that will prepare the next generation of leaders in high performance manufacturing and has been recognized by President Obama as a national model. He is president of the Center for Polytechnical Education that creates and assists high-performance schools and educational programs linked to advanced manufacturing.

Kurt Thurmaier

Director, NIU Division of
Public Administration

Thurmaier's career includes four years in the Wisconsin State Budget Office as a budget and management analyst, a Fulbright Scholarship at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, consultant work with Polish local governments through the International City/County Management Association, and consultant work on US city-county consolidation efforts. He is an academic member of ICMA and the Illinois City/County Management Association, and he has attended many ICMA conferences. His research interests include state and local public budgeting and finance, intergovernmental relations, comparative public management, and financing e-government, in which he has done extensive research, publication and teaching. In addition to numerous published articles, his books include *Policy and Politics in State Budgeting and Case Studies of City-County Consolidations: Reshaping the Local Government Landscape*, which analyzes the factors that lead to successful city-county consolidation elections in the US. His latest book, *Case Studies of City-County Consolidations: Promises Made, Promises Kept?*, is an evaluation of city-county consolidation promises.

Jane Tompkins

Director of Community Development,
Village of Montgomery, Illinois

Tompkins has directed Montgomery's community development activities for the past two and a half years. In that capacity, she oversees long-range planning, zoning, a revolving loan fund for economic development, building

inspections, and code enforcement. Prior to her current position, Tompkins served as Development Director for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Development Coordinator for the Village of Sugar Grove, and the Community Development Director for the Village of Riverside. She also served as a Planner for Kane County and Will County. Tompkins has a bachelor's degree in Finance, a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Iowa, and a Juris Doctor degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law.

Patrick Urich

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

Urich is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of Peoria County, including the \$113 million budget, 27 departments, and approximately 960 employees. He was appointed Peoria County Administrator in October 2000. Urich started his public administration career in 1993 as a research analyst for Lake County. In 1997 he was named Assistant County Administrator responsible for budget, legislative affairs, and criminal justice coordination. In 1999, on behalf of the International City/County Management Association and the U.S. Agency for International Development, Urich assessed the effectiveness of ICMA's City Links technical exchange program in Bulgaria. As County Administrator, he assisted in the creation of the Illinois River Valley Council of Governments serving the Peoria metropolitan area. Urich holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Illinois Wesleyan University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He chairs ICMA's Government Affairs and Policy Committee and is past-President of the Illinois City/County Management Association.

Promod Vohra

Dean, NIU College of Engineering and
Engineering Technology

Vohra holds a doctorate in Instructional Technology and a master's and bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. Prior to academia, he worked in industry (Philips) for five years as a technical support engineer. He joined NIU in 1988 as a lecturer, became an assistant professor

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in 1993, an associate professor in 1995, the associate dean in 1997, and the dean in 2004. His interests are digital systems, instruction design, industrial training, new technologies and applications of technologies. He has brought in software and other cash grants worth approximately \$45 million. Vohra has been very active in university service and in regional and national professional committees/organizations. He was the recipient of the 1988 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. In 1995, he was given NIU's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award and in 1996 received the Outstanding Professor Award in the region (seven states) by the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT).

Norman Walzer

Senior Research Scholar,
NIU Center for Governmental Studies

Walzer leads the local economic development outreach efforts for CGS. He has a Ph.D. in Economics (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and spent 35 years at Western Illinois University on the Economics faculty, as department chair, dean of the College of Business and Technology, and founding director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs. Walzer is widely published on local economic development, public finance, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship issues with more than 300 publications including 16 co-authored or edited books. He has worked with numerous state and local agencies on a variety of public policy issues and serves on the Governor's Rural Affairs Council and as Secretary of Illinois Rural Partners. He currently is Vice-President of the Community Development Society and is editing a research volume on the effectiveness of community visioning efforts. He recently coordinated a study of the financing and administration of counties in Illinois and is researching innovative practices to help small governments deliver services more efficiently.

Ty Warner

Principal, Comprehensive Regional
Planning, Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Warner works with a wide range of large and small communities and has developed innovative tools, such as the award-winning Centers Toolkit, using interactive technology to gain consensus among diverse population groups. Prior to joining CMAP, Warner was Planning Director for Will County, Illinois, while it was ranked one of the top-ten fastest-growing counties in the United States. While there, he oversaw the adoption of Will County's award-winning Land Resource Management Plan, which shifted conventional land use planning toward a more form- and pattern-based approach. He recently co-chaired the 2009 Upper Midwest Planning Conference in Chicago to commemorate Daniel Burnham's landmark 1909 Plan of Chicago. Warner holds a Master of Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Wheaton College, is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners, and received the 2009 Distinguished Service Award by the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association.