An Overview of the
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Research, Teaching and Outreach Efforts
In the Area of Economic Development

Spring, 2013
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The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign conducted a campus-wide Visioning Excellence @ Illinois exercise throughout 2012. This report is a summary of the key strengths in the area of economic development. Faculty, students and staff were invited to participate in two sessions, held on February 23 and 15, 2013, to discuss potential actions to move the Visioning Future Excellence theme of Economic Development forward.

## Participants

The individuals who participated during these sessions are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ilesanmi Adesida</td>
<td>Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reginald Alston</td>
<td>Kinesiology and Community Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Andrechak</td>
<td>Chancellor's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry DeBrock</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael DeLorenzo</td>
<td>Chancellor's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Gunn</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Hauser</td>
<td>ACES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoffrey Hewings</td>
<td>Geography &amp; Geographic InfoS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pradeep Khanna</td>
<td>Public Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stig Lanesskog</td>
<td>Provost's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jie (Jessica) Li</td>
<td>Educ. Policy, Orgzn &amp; Leadrshp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Murphy</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Nicholson</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Peterson</td>
<td>VC for Institutional Advancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menah Pratt-Clarke</td>
<td>Chancellor's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Schiffer</td>
<td>VC Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda C. Smith</td>
<td>Library &amp; Information Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhubalan Viswanathan</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barb Wilson</td>
<td>Provost's Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Wise</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chi-Fang Wu</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
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</table>

## Current Research on Economic Development

During the first session, participants shared some of the key activities already taking place on our campus related to this theme. The activities described below were shared either during the session or as a follow-up.

Any attempt to organize the information from our efforts into a small number of key areas risks omitting emerging advances and innovative approaches. Nonetheless, in any discussion of economic development research at Illinois, a number of foci emerge:
- Innovation policy (how we regulate innovation)
- Healthcare affordability
- Pensions and other retirement programs
- Entrepreneurship
- International business
- Social entrepreneurship
- Strategy
- Innovation
- New product/service development
- Public policy (its impact on economic development)
- Labor and health economics
- Political economy of development
- Public economics
- Consumer economics
- Wealth distribution

Research in these areas is supported by a substantial state-of-the-art infrastructure. The following are examples of laboratories, institutes, and units created, equipped and staffed to support research in these areas, in addition to our Colleges and Departments.

- Department of Economics
- Department of Finance
- Department of Accountancy
- Department of Business Administration
- Department of Political Science
- School of Social Work
- School of Labor and Employment Relations
- College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Law
- Hoeft Technology and Management Program
- Technology Entrepreneur Center
- Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA)

This overview also includes a brief description of academic offerings, research areas, and campus services.

**Healthcare affordability**

- *Mapping the Way to Better Health Care: An Analysis of Champaign County Free Clinics:* study includes producing a geographical information systems (GIS) map of the client's place of residence in the community in relation to the free clinic. The team collected medical record data from a free clinic, imported attributes for analysis, and is currently mapping the findings.
Entrepreneurship

- **Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC):** offers courses and activities for engineering and technology students interested in technology commercialization and entrepreneurship.

- **Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership (AEL):** offers entrepreneurship programs, services and resources to faculty, students and community members and encourages entrepreneurial awareness and initiatives across all disciplines at the University. Manages Illinois Launch.

- **Illinois Business Consulting** has conducted approximately 750 projects for over 500 clients. Its primary objective is education, enabling students to apply their classroom learning to solving real business issues, while providing value-added solutions to our clients.

International business

- **The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP) Program:** an academic unit in the International Programs and Studies Division promotes the study of global human security and gender equity. Core areas of research, teaching, and public engagement are land rights and food security, the changing global labor market, transnational migration, and healthcare.

Social Entrepreneurship

- **University of Illinois Extension:** the flagship outreach effort of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, offering educational programs to residents of all of Illinois’ 102 counties – and far beyond.

- **Learning in the Community (LINC):** an interdisciplinary, inquiry-guided service-learning course in which teams of students work on projects proposed by community partners. Each section of the course is dedicated to a nonprofit organization that has proposed one or more projects of importance to the organization.

- **Action Research Illinois (ARI):** is a public outreach program that works with partners across the State of Illinois, with a particular focus in East Central Illinois Communities. AR I maintains an on-going program of sustained engagement with community partners and public agencies, addressing social justice, human and environmental sustainability, and development in distressed areas and with marginalized populations through service learning and action research. Together with residents and community organizations in severely distressed areas of Illinois, faculty, staff and students from across the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign endeavor to work on highly tangible and visible projects that address immediate and long-term needs.

- **TIAA-CREF Center for Farmland Research Center:** provides research and outreach activities related to agricultural asset valuation and financial performance with emphases on farmland markets, factors influencing farmland values, taxation and use policy, farmland rental arrangements,
commodity price relationships to income and valuation, impacts of non-farm activities, and other items related to an understanding of farmland and related asset values.

- **Odyssey Project**: free, college-accredited course in the humanities to members of the Champaign-Urbana community who fall at or near the poverty level. The yearlong course offers students intensive study in philosophy, art history, literature, U.S. history, and critical thinking and writing.

### Strategy

- **Farmdoc**: a comprehensive information system for farm decision-making and risk management.

### Innovation

- **Applied Research Institute**: responds to a set of long-standing regional and national needs to compete for and execute applied research and development projects normally considered beyond traditional boundaries of the University of Illinois enterprise; to provide rapid response to technical opportunities and requirements; and to enhance commercial and employment opportunities

- **UI Labs**: a research and development laboratory & think tank to be based in Chicago that connects University of Illinois, state, and industry leaders. A place for big thinking on big problems, the UI LABS concept embraces Illinois' responsibility to address global challenges through innovation and technological prowess.

### New product/service development

- **IllinoisVentures**: start-up and early-stage technology investment firm focused on research derived companies in information technology, physical and life sciences, and clean technology.

- **Office of Technology Management (OTM)**: provides professional services to ensure the results of this research are successfully transferred outside the university

- **Office of Corporate Relations**: facilitates connections between corporate partners and Illinois’ faculty, researchers and students

- **University of Illinois Research Park**: provides an environment where technology-based businesses can work with faculty and students to take advantage of opportunities for collaborative research and easy access to University labs, equipment and services.

- **EnterpriseWorks**: helps launch successful startup companies by providing space and support services

- **University of Illinois Business Innovation Services**: Promotes a thriving U.S. economic base by providing outstanding educational and governmental/grant resources.
• The NCSA Private Sector Program is a private sector partnership program with 25 partners in sectors ranging from manufacturing to oil & gas, technology, life sciences, astronomy, and agriculture. PSP’s combines NCSA and University of Illinois expertise in HPC, domain sciences, parallel computing, and business workflows to deliver insight, innovation, and strategic thinking. NCSA expertise is leveraged to result in improved production, application performance, and compute systems.

Public Policy (its impact on economic development)

• Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA): is a public policy research organization that aims to improve public policy and government performance by producing and distributing cutting-edge research and analysis, engaging the public in dialogue and education and providing practical assistance in decision making to government and policymakers.

• The Public Finance and Economic Development Program: part of IGPA, provides policy research on major state and local public finance and economic development issues, with emphasis on the state of Illinois.

• Center for Business and Public Policy: analyzes programs and policies to advance discussion around the implications of these decisions for our regulatory framework, tax system, and the level and type of government spending.

• The Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL): a regional science research center for advanced graduate students in the fields of economics, geography, urban and regional planning, computer science and mathematics, which provides timely, high quality analytical economic information for a variety of uses such as public policy decision making by public sector agencies and for strategic marketing in the private sector.

Labor and health economics

• Center for Human Resource Management: a joint venture between senior human resource executives and University of Illinois faculty from the School of Labor and Employment Relations, UIUC College of Business and UIC College of Business Administration.

• The Latina/o Health Literacy Research Group: focuses on understanding and promoting health literacy to empower Latinas/os who often are underserved in clinical settings and underrepresented in research literature.

Public economies

• Center for Professional Responsibility in Business and Society: an interdisciplinary center, funded in partnership with Deloitte, develops curriculum, supports research and helps to drive a national vision
that articulates societal expectations of a professional's responsibility and accountability at both the individual and organizational level.

**Consumer economics**

- *The Community Preservation Clinic:* provides direct legal representation to homeowners facing foreclosure and develops foreclosure mediation opportunities to facilitate sustainable loan modifications as well as expedite the foreclosure process when the home cannot be saved to minimize the impact on homeowners and the community.

**Wealth Distribution**

- *The Children and Family Research Center:* identifies research needs and support research that is policy and practice relevant and encourage and facilitate public child welfare research activities through collaborative relationships.
- *Subsistence Marketplace Initiative:* seeks to develop and disseminate actionable knowledge for creating sustainable solutions for subsistence marketplaces.

**Academic Offerings**

- *Bachelor in Accountancy:* prepares students for entry into a variety of fields in accountancy, including corporate accounting, accounting information systems, and governmental accounting, as well as entry into graduate programs such as law.
- *Bachelor/Master in Accounting Science (BSA/MAS):* prepares students for entry into both non-public and public accountancy careers through advanced study in an accountancy graduate program.
- *Masters and PhD in Accountancy:* emphasizes the economics, finance and behavioral-science roots of the accountancy discipline, and provides the institutional background and knowledge about research methods and economic, finance and behavioral-science theories necessary for success in an academic and/or professional career.
- *Executive MBA:* tailors modules specifically for the Executive MBA program. Although courses are differentiated by subject matter, they're tightly bound by principles of leadership, innovative thinking, faculty, and global sensitivity.
- *Masters in Business Administration (MBA):* provides the basis for careers in marketing, international business, healthcare management, or sustainability.
- *Masters and Ph.D. in Business Administration:* provides students with the necessary skills to identify and research complex issues within the field of management.
- *Bachelor in Agricultural and Consumer Economics:* choose one of 9 concentrations. The concentrations are: Agri-Accounting; Agribusiness Markets and Management; Finance in Agribusiness; Consumer...
• **Masters and Ph.D. in Agricultural and Consumer Economics**: Graduate students in the department gain insights into: Economic and management theory, State-of-the-art research methods, and Creative problem-solving skills.

• **Bachelor in Business Process Management**: combines a thoughtful, goal-oriented approach to projects with the business skills necessary to manage systems, people, ideas, and capital.

• **Bachelor in Information Systems & Information Technology**: students look at the application of information technology to business activities. They are concerned with the design and implementation of information systems to support the information processing needs of an organization.

• **Bachelor in Management**: prepares students for management careers, concentrations in General Management, International Business or Entrepreneurship

• **Bachelor in Marketing**: provides students with the basics to understand business activities that connect consumers with goods

• **Bachelor in Supply Chain Management**: a rigorous program open only to select students combines creative with analytical thinking.

• **Bachelor in Economics**: prepares students for employment in business and government, and provides an ideal background for graduate study in Law, Business, Public Policy, and Economics

• **Masters and Ph.D. in Economics**: meet the needs of policy makers. Most of the students in this program have career paths that take them into government ministries, central banks, and international organizations.

• **Bachelor in Finance**: provide the student with both the theoretical background and the analytical tools required to make effective judgments in finance, many students select careers in business financial management, commercial and investment banking, investments, government finance, insurance, and real estate.

• **Masters and PhD in Finance**: allows for specialization in these fields: banking and financial institutions, corporate finance, insurance and risk management, investments, and real estate and urban land economics.

• **Master of Science in Financial Engineering (MSFE)**: offers students the opportunity to learn fundamental economic principles and finance theory coupled with state-of-the-art mathematical methods, computational tools, and computer programming expertise.

• **Masters and Ph.D. in Labor and Employer Relations/ HR**: explores ideas about employment relationships from a number of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Employment relations encompasses the background and interests of Human Resources and Industrial Relations scholars, labor
economists, organizational psychologists, organizational sociologists, legal scholars, and labor educators.

- **Bachelor in Political Science**: encourages students to acquire a broad understanding of political science and to pursue selected subfields of the discipline in depth.

- **Masters and PhD in Political Science**: requires that students complete a "scope and methods" sequence, acquire proficiency in analytic skills, and demonstrate expertise in several subfields within the discipline.

- **Bachelor in Social Work**: provide a comprehensive educational experience for students that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition and prepares graduates for excellence in the areas of social work practice, policy, social engagement and leadership.

- **Masters and PhD in Social Work**: focuses on preparing students for careers in leading academic institutions and social service organizations, both in the United States and internationally.

- **Masters and Ph.D. in Human Resource Education**: educates and trains future researchers and scholars, reflective practitioners, and leaders for a wide variety of organizations and institutions; its unique strength lies in the integration of psychology, organization studies, adult education, instructional design and technology, and global perspectives for individual and organizational excellence.

- **JD, Law**: serves as a preeminent site for the study of law, legal institution, and legal culture; to educate our students effectively and comprehensively in legal principles and skills; and to advance justice and the public good.

- **Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Management (CEM)**: a program for entrepreneurially minded MD students, DVM students, PhD students, and Post-Doctoral Associates in engineering, life sciences, and related disciplines who are interested in understanding the business, economic, and legal issues in scientific and high technical start-up ventures. Participants who have the scientific and high tech skills to do groundbreaking research will learn the business savvy needed to bring discoveries to market.

- **Certificate in Business for Non-Business Graduate Students**: designed to provide non-business graduate students with a strategic framework for making informed business decisions.

- **Minor in Business**: gives students the knowledge, confidence, and resourcefulness to give their passions a professional boost.

- **Hoefst Technology and Management minor**: bridges the gap between traditional engineering and business education by offering a unique curriculum to a select group of highly qualified undergraduates drawn from the Colleges of Engineering and Business.

- **Master of Science in Technology Management**: in the College of Business, provides a core business management curriculum tailored to technology, combined with highly focused program elements to further enhance the learning experience.
• *Technology Entrepreneur Center (courses):* courses for students who want to understand the business issues in engineering, as well as how new technology-based businesses are created and managed.
Development and Prioritization of Potential Actions

During the session on February 12, 2013, each of the participants brainstormed potential actions that would allow the campus to make progress either in the short-term (12-18 months) or in the mid-term (3-5 years) in the theme area of Economic Development. The participants used as a reference the word cloud for this theme that was developed as a result of the first set of Visioning Excellence sessions last academic year. This word cloud is embedded below:

Notes from each of the small groups were summarized and presented at the second session on February 15, 2013. The same set of participants discussed the potential set of recommended actions for the short and mid-term. After the group discussion, each individual was asked to prioritize the set of actions. To assist with the prioritization exercise, a high-level assessment of the time and financial resources needed to implement each potential action was provided (high, medium or low). Each participant was given four votes to place on the short-term actions and the three separate votes on the mid-term actions. The notes from the session and voting are provided below.
## Short-term (12-18 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Potential Actions</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Create new forms of outreach to scale marketplace literacy education for impoverished people locally and within our state (Poverty)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Establish a Social Entrepreneurship major/minor (Poverty)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Leverage the new Veterans center to become an even stronger player in the area of disability research (Healthcare Affordability)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Increase support for faculty to pursue external funding for research on international development and education (e.g., seed grants, workshops on applying for funding, etc.) (Global Economy)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Create a more transparent system of knowledge transfer to the world- increase the visibility of the work of Illinois and its current and potential impact on the world (Global Economy)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Develop a center to connect activities related to healthcare/healthcare affordability across campus (Healthcare Affordability)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Enhance public engagement activities with disadvantaged populations in the local community (Poverty)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Develop additional support structures for students from disadvantaged backgrounds (Education Costs)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Develop a center to connect activities related to scholarship in the areas of retirement, educational attainment and poverty across the campus</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Develop a Social Entrepreneurship center (Poverty)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Raise the overall standards of Teaching Assistants and the level of training provided, given their impact on Undergraduate Education (Education Costs)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Connect with international companies and alumni overseas to seek campus support (Global Economy)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Create additional scholarships for disadvantaged students (Education Costs)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Establish diversity as a key priority/goal of the campus (Education Costs)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. Require all students to have some form of an international orientation and exposure to global challenges/perspectives across the curriculum (Global Economy)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Encourage students and faculty to think and act entrepreneurially (Job Market)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q. Encourage curricular flexibility to allow entrepreneurship and practical focus (Job Market)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Mid-term (3-5 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Potential Actions</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Create a center or institute on Global Economy/ Development (Global Economy)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Make our campus a leader in framing public policy debate and making recommendations on policy (Politics and Policy Making)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Make Champaign-Urbana and the University of Illinois a model for job creation, while considering the quality and impact of the jobs created, as well as the fairness of accessibility of those jobs. Evaluate the broader impact on the communities in which these jobs have been created. (Job Market)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Create new forms of outreach to scale marketplace literacy education for impoverished people globally (Poverty)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Leverage existing units and activities related to disability research to expand and increase the impact of Illinois around policy, inclusion in education, etc.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Create additional support/ funds for new ventures such that current and potential students and/or faculty with an interest in start-ups will be attracted to Illinois (Job Market)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Create additional advanced degrees that are delivered in Chicago (Job Market)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Develop new initiatives similar to the Applied Research Institute to address the loss of jobs in Illinois (e.g., address the manufacturing industry in Illinois) (Job Market)</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Become champions of high speed rail between Champaign and Chicago, allowing faculty to be even more connected to Chicago (would enhance recruiting of faculty and the quality/ impact of their scholarship)(Job Market)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Set an expectation that Illinois will have an impact on the world (Global Economy)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Develop more advanced programs in Chicago by leveraging connections with other organizations/activities, including those at UIC</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A campus committee consisting of the Chancellor, the Provost, the Vice Chancellor for Research, and the Associate Chancellor for Budget and Planning will be reviewing these recommendations. They will also look at other strategic priorities for the campus and develop the campus action plan. This action plan will be presented to the Council of Deans. The plan may be revised based on input received from the Council of Deans. The final action plan will be released during the spring of 2013.