Economic Development
Visioning Sessions Raw Data from Spring 2012

Twenty groups totaling more than seven hundred individuals gathered for focus group sessions over the Spring 2012 semester. Represented in these groups were faculty, academic professionals, civil service staff, graduate students, undergraduate students, alumni, community members and corporate leaders. In the sessions, the participants answered the question: What are society’s most pressing issues? At the end of all the sessions, this information from each of the individual sessions was merged to create a comprehensive word cloud. Six major categories emerged during this process: Education; Economic Development; Energy and Environment; Health and Wellness; Information and Technology; and Social Equality and Cultural Understanding.

Combined raw data of Economic Development-related comments from the Visioning Sessions are listed below:

Responses that were Economic Development-related fell under the following headings:

- Economic outlook
- Distribution of wealth
- Poverty
- Global economy
- Job market
- Educational costs
- Governance
- Healthcare affordability
- Housing and homelessness
- Accountability
- Retirement
- Energy costs
- Wages

Individual responses, roughly group by topic, appear below:
(note: repetition of exact words was removed. For instance 18 people just said “Economy” but it is only listed once).

- Class division
- Class Inequality
- public and civic institutions, Lack of non-elite access to
- SES as a cultural group
- Relative corporate greed
- Debt
- Debt from student loans
- Economic Debt (international and state)
- economics - global Debt (national and state too)
- End if Debt and finance crisis
- National Debt
• State and federal deficit spending
• State deficit
• barriers to access to wealth and opportunity
• Bridging the divide in poverty and wealth
• Creation of new underclass
• Declining incomes/standard of living
• Disappearance of the middle class: Only very rich or poor
• disparity between haves and have nots, increasing
• Disparity between rich and poor
• Disparity in quality of life across individuals
• Disparity in wealth (both within nation and internationally)
• Disparity in wealthy vs. poor
• disparity of wealth
• disproportionate poverty
• distribution of resources and wealth
• Distribution of Wealth
• distribution of wealth and income
• Diverging income stratification in US
• Diversion of social classes
• divide between haves and have nots, Increasing
• Economic and political polarization
• Economic differences within US
• Economic disparities
• economic divide, Growing
• Economic Inequality
• economic Inequality - living wage jobs
• economic Inequality as endless status quo, Global
• economic interest, redistributing of
• economic stratification
• Economic U.S. Defecits, taxes, Poor
• Economics dwindling middle class
• Economy unempeployment family stability quality of life pursuit of happiness
• educating and gainfully employing the middle and lower socioeconomic classes, Effectively
• Fair and Adequate Wages
• Gap between income groups
• Growing income gaps between wealthy and poor nations
• growing Inequality between haves and have nots
• Growing split between "haves" and "have-nots"
• how does the U.S. avoid becoming a country of haves and have nots
• Income and Distribution of wealth
• Income disparities - diminishing middle class
• Income gap poor becoming more dependent on government
• Income Inequality
• Income Inequality/ poverty
• Income/equality gap (haves and have nots)
• Increasing gaps between classes
• justice in distribution of wealth
• middle class society, Maintaining a
• Nation and state unable to provide assistance to all those that need it
• North/South
• population upwardly mobile, Making the fastest growing part of U.S.
• population, stratification of global
• Raising standard of living of poor communities
• Restoration of social mobility
• secondary middle class
• separation of wealth
• SES, Increasing gaps in
• Social and economic Inequality
• social classes, Increased division of
• Societal segmentation
• Socio-economic disparity
• Socioeconomic equity
• socioeconomic stratification, Increased
• The accumulation of wealth in corporations of individuals - Plutocracy
• The lack of understanding of those with wealthy power to those without
• The power of supranational organizations
• Wealth and income disparities
• Wealth and labor redistribution (globalization of job market)
• Wealth and resource Inequality
• Wealth Distribution
• wealth distribution in society
• wealth distribution Inequality
• wealth distribution, Unequitable
• Wealth gap
• wealth, Unequal division of
• Wealth/ Poverty gap
• widening gap of classes
• Widening Income gap
• Income gaps
• As the economy recovers, will corporations change their recession policies?
• Balancing economic growth with equality and sustainability
• Economic growth
• economic production
• Economic recovery
• economic recovery that will benefit all people, How to get
• economies as symbol of power/status to some other universal metric, Move from model of growth
• efficient economic development
• is economic growth the right target
• Re-invigorating US economy
• Sustainable economic growth
• Austerity
• Austerity and the prevalance of austerity finance in political discourse
• Conflicts of economic development and protection
• Continued economic woes
• Economic and Environmental sustainability
• economic and financial regulation
• Economic recession
• economic security
• Economic security stability
• Economic stability
• Economic stability
• Economic stability - strong middle class
• Economic sustainability
• economic systems, Secure
• Economy - desire for stability
• economy practice, Sustainable
• economy, Strengthen the US/global
• Financial Security
• financial security, Long term
• financial stability
• financial stability by regulation or other methods, improve
• financial stability, Global
• Financial state
• Financial/banking stability
• Fiscal Crisis and Gov't stability
• sustainable growth, long term
• Young peoples' lack of confidence in and uncertainty about how we achieve a secure future
• Consumerism consuming people
• Consumption-based society
• Doing more with less
• Economic competition
• Economic development
• Economic problems
• Economic relationship
• Economy
• Economy (downfall)
• Economy failures
• economy ie products vs. services, Value-added
• economy, strong
• Finance
• Financial
• Financial Aid for students
• Financial health of the population
• Financial Infrastructure
• Fiscal impact of population aging
• Fiscal reponsibility
• Fiscally responsible government
• Investments
• monetary crises, how to solve ongoing
• Monetary systems
• Money
• Passive consumerism
• Vested Interest
- Economic "new normal"
- Shrinking economy
- Specialized economy
- Stabilizing Work Economy
- State of the economy
- Stock market
- Unfair tax system
- Financial Literacy
- homes, Affordable
- Homes, Real Estate (Homes)
- Housing
- Housing crisis - affordable housing for all income groups
- housing, Affordable adequate
- housing, Affordable safe
- Housing, Home ownership
- housing, lack of affordable
- housing, segregated
- Shelter
- Shelter - families - respect for all
- Warmth/ shelter energy
- Housing
- 3rd world brain drain
- Competition for jobs
- Creating economic opportunity
- displacement of workers
- Economic issues, jobs, and access to jobs
- Emerging markets treatment of workers
- employed and unemployed, Under
- Employment
- employment and returning home, Adult children unable to secure
- Employment and unemployment
- Employment for elderly
- Employment of lack of
- Employment opportunities
- Employment opportunities for everyone
- Employment opportunities for lower and middle class
- employment opportunities, Loss of
- Industrial outsourcing
- Job creation
- job creation, Quality
- Job market
- Job Market for graduating students
- Job placement
- job prospects for graduates, Lack of
- Job security
- Jobs
- jobs - availability in inner cities
- Jobs and innovation
• Jobs employment
• jobs for graduates, Availability of
• jobs in an increasingly automated world
• Jobs keeping/losing
• Jobs, (Lack of)
• jobs, Lack of living wage
• jobs, Quality
• jobs/economy
• Jobs/employment
• meaning career and lives for everyone
• meaningful employment
• Outsourced jobs
• The value of labor and working conditions
• trades, Lack of
• unemployment
• unemployment rate, The higher
• Unemployment rates rising
• Union jobs - skilled
• work, Redefining
• Workforce development - Unemployment and skill development (ready to work)
• Workforce, Changing
• workforce, Strong
• working, Increasing number of hours spent
• Work force development
• Youth unemployment
• Quality jobs $
• Work opportunities
• Workforce
• Budget deficits
• Budgets state and federal
• Country's deficit
• Finance
• Consumption and poverty: aligning markets with the needs of people in sustainable ways
• economic development poverty
• Poverty
• Poverty and Hunger
• poverty and income Inequality
• Poverty at all levels (local national global)
• Poverty hunger
• Poverty in developing nations
• Poverty issues
• poverty or at a very low income level, More people and families living in
• poverty rate, The high
• poverty, how to assess the need and fundamentals of
• poverty, Overcoming severe
• Poverty/personal Debt
• Privatization of public institutions and cultures
• Privatizations of human needs to corporations
• Privitization of resources
• Asset access
• Illinois pension security
• Lengthening retirement
• Pension reform
• Retirement
• Retirement (funding of pension plans)
• Retirement income
• Retirement systems
• retirement, changing nature of
• Social security (funding)
• Social Security
• social security and health care
• State pensions
• SURS - Social security
• Survival of social security
• Financial planning for retirement
• Rural development
• Rural economic development
• economy, Weak Illinois
• Financial issues for UIUC
• Financial position of the university and state
• Fiscal issues reduction of available fed and state funds
• Illinois' prosperity as a rust belt state