



# Northern Illinois University

## Budget Planning Working Group

**Jerry Blazey**

**Robert Brinkmann**

**Vernese Edghill-Walden**

**Adrienne King, ACE Fellow**

March 1, 2022

# Purpose



Working Group established by President Freeman, Provost Ingram, and Vice President Chinniah to provide input and recommendations on a new planning process that:

- Focuses on the mission, vision, and values of the university
- Accommodates multiyear planning
- Right sizes the budget and addresses historical structural deficit
- Provide shared accountability for decision-makers
- Creates an environment for innovation and entrepreneurship around revenue generation
- Fosters and promotes shared leadership

# The University vision matters in this context



- Advance student success and social mobility
- Engine for innovation
- Promote personal, professional, and intellectual growth
- Transform the world through research, artistry, teaching, and outreach

# Working Group Activities to Date



- Review current budget practices at NIU
- Examine all sources/types of revenue and expenditures
- Study best practices in budget management in higher education
- Examine some budget case studies at specific universities
- Meet with stakeholders for input (**today!**)

# The Context - Status



- Budget has not been reoriented to reflect enrollment decline over the past decade.
  - Years of \$10 million budget deficits are unsustainable and impacts a variety of actions.
  - Need to move away from across-the-board cuts to strategic budgeting.
- Enhanced focus on student success and retention and continued focus on research and engagement missions in alignment with NIU's mission, vision, and values priorities.
- Lack of incentives for innovation and investment
- Budget schedule is not well oriented to needs of the campus community.
- Need for education on financial planning and management.

# Today's Tabletop Exercise



- Each table has a sheet with five questions.
- Answer the 2 circled questions at your table (more if there is time).
- Select a recorder to take notes.
- At the close of 30 minutes, we will ask for a few recorders to report back.
- Please leave written responses on the table and/or send any notes or comments to Vice President Blazey at [gblazey@niu.edu](mailto:gblazey@niu.edu)

# Preliminary Next Steps



- Incorporate feedback from stakeholder meetings
- Develop a draft plan that will propose:
- A clear, timely budget schedule.
- An evaluation criteria that will prioritize budget decisionmaking
- Policy recommendations for sustainable revenue generation
- A plan for financial management and planning education
- Strategies for reducing the structural deficit
- A sustainable mechanism for annual investment funds that supports incentivize innovation.

# Thank you!



Your input is welcome!