

## SMALL GROUP WORKSHEET AND GROUP REPORT FORM FOR THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Your group should agree on one person to serve as the “recorder and reporter.” This will be the one person who will turn in this report form to your regional host.

- Please indicate the relative importance of the following challenges to your region’s economic well being and to development and growth. Please indicate the importance by **allocating a total of ten (10) priority points** among these challenges. You may assign multiple points to a challenge if you believe that it is warranted. You may not use fractions; use whole numbers only. If you decide to use an “other” category, be sure to specify what that is.

Priority Points	Challenges to this Region’s Development	Under our Control?
	Insufficient state funding for airports and surface transportation.	
	The area is not very ethnically diverse & less attractive to some.	
	State funding for higher education is not keeping pace with enrollment growth	
	Arkansas is a flyover state.	
	We lose our college graduates and the best of the younger generation to other areas	
	Businesses face too much uncertainty as they wait for federal government decisions on cap and trade, health care reform, etc.	
	Environmental restrictions resulting from EPA policies or law suits filed by other states.	
	It is hard to recruit and retain skilled workers (i.e., those without four-year degrees but with skills in technology, advanced manufacturing, etc.)	
	The declines in the rural and small community health care system.	
	Amendment 82.	
	The small and/or declining population.	
	Insufficient high-tech infrastructure, e.g., broadband.	
	The state’s inability to compete with our neighboring states.	
	The effect of term limits by which we will lose experienced legislators to represent us in the capitol.	
	We lack the quality of life amenities to attract workers and employers.	
	Communities do not have a tax with revenue dedicated to economic development.	
	Our schools are not sufficiently preparing graduates for college or for jobs.	
	The crime rate and concerns about public safety.	
	Racial tensions and divisions within our communities.	
	Insufficient public transportation.	
	We are not good enough at working together regionally; we get hung up on boundaries; our plans and efforts are not coordinated.	
	Our per capita tax burden is too great.	
	We need new leadership; leaders with vision and willingness to work to the greater good; and the next generation of leaders.	
	Drugs—workers are unable to pass drug tests; they undermine our families and communities.	
	Site selectors have preconceived notions that work to our disadvantage.	
	Too much of our available labor pool lacks skills and a work ethic.	
	Arkansas’s usury law.	
	Card check or employee free choice.	
	Other:	
	Other:	
	Other:	
	Other:	

- Go back and look at the challenges that you have rated as being the most important, that is, those challenges to which you have assigned some priority points. Quickly think about the extent to which these challenge are something over which we have some control locally, regionally, and at the state level. Those challenges that you believe we can do a great deal to affect, reduce, or overcome should be noted with an **H for high control**. Those challenges over which we have some control should be noted with an **S for some control**; assign an **L for low control** to those about which you think we can very little. Finally if you believe that we can do absolutely nothing to affect some of these challenges, assign them an **N for no control**.