UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
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Prepared by

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Summary: In April 2000, the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno funding cycle began again. Therefore, the quarterly reports start in April. The University Center for Economic Development continued to provide statewide and technical assistance in economic development for the first quarter of FY 2002-2003. During the first quarter, the University Center produced five applied research projects, six other research projects, four technical and management assistance projects, seven counseling and referrals, four workshops, one professional meetings and one refereed journal article.

Project Mix and Staff: The University Center registered activity in a wide variety of areas and has actively participated in programs throughout the state. The University Center has a staff of Thomas R. Harris, Director; Tim Darden, Research Associate; Jered McDonald, Research Associate; William O. Champney, Consultant for feasibility projects; and Lisa McGraw, Administrative Assistant at the University of Nevada, Reno. George “Buddy” Borden, Community Development Specialist, is also affiliated with the University Center but is located at the Clark County Cooperative Extension Office in Las Vegas.
Project Summaries

A. Marketing Activities:

University Center continues its technical assistance to agencies interested in marketing and promoting economic development in the state of Nevada. The University Center developed procedures to review and mail to interested populace products developed by the University Center. These products are fact sheets, technical reports and journal articles. Six technical reports were prepared for review during the first quarter of fiscal year 2002-2003 by the University Center. Four workshops were developed by the University Center for presentation of economic data and results of past projects.

The Center is currently maintaining a web page. The address is [http://www.ag.unr.edu/uced](http://www.ag.unr.edu/uced). From this web page a person will be able to access and download past University Center Technical Reports, Regional Economic Information System data developed by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis for the state of Nevada and its seventeen counties and selected historical and current economic data from various state agencies. Links to other key sites can also be found. The site is constantly being updated with reports and new data sets. University Center Technical Bulletins for 1995 through 2002 are currently online in Adobe pdf format.

B. Applied Research:

1. Client: Rural Policy Research Institute
   Location of Project: State of Nevada
   
   Nature of Project: Development of county and local government fiscal impact models to derive impacts from alternative federal government policies.

   Action: A Nevada economic/fiscal model is being developed. Also, the National Association of Counties has assisted this research effort. (Assignment continues.)

   Location of Project: State of Nevada

   Nature of Project: Nevada, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, and Oklahoma were chosen as pilot states for a National Rural Health Pilot Project called Operation Rural Health Works. The objective of the project is to assess the economic impacts of the rural health sector on rural economies.

   Action: Impact studies for Nevada counties completed. Workshops held in Battle Mountain and Lovelock, Nevada. A telephone survey is currently underway in Battle Mountain and Lovelock to ascertain the public’s opinion of the local health sector. (Assignment continues.)
3. **Client:** Rural Nevada  
**Location of Project:** Mountain States  

**Nature of Project:** Develop a location model to estimate probabilities of location of a given manufacturing and/or commercial sector industry.  

**Action:** County Business Pattern data are being collected for the Mountain States to estimate change in firm numbers from 1992 to 1998 by industrial classification. Business count and socio-economic data will be employed to develop a model to estimate probability of location for a given economic sector in a given county. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** Great Basin Development District and Western Nevada Development District  
**Location of Project:** Counties within these two districts  

**Nature of Project:** Complete an industrial targeting study for the Great Basin Development District and the Western Nevada Development District.  

**Action:** Socio-economic data is being collected and developed into a publication to estimate economic base of counties and trends for economic growth. Procedures are currently being developed to target industry targeting from the collected data. (Assignment continues.)

5. **Client:** Bureau of Land Management  
**Location of Project:** Walker River Basin  

**Nature of Project:** Develop a dynamic regional economic impact model to estimate potential impacts of surface water reallocations along the Walker River Basin.  

**Action:** A Walker River Basin dynamic computable general equilibrium model has been developed and is currently being tested to derive regional economic impacts of surface water reallocation. (Assignment continues.)

C. **Other Research Projects:**

1. **Client:** State of Nevada  
**Location of Project:** Humboldt, Lander and Eureka Counties  

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic impacts of 1.6 million acre range fire on the economies of these five rural Nevada counties.  

**Action:** Expenditure and production loss data has been completed. Analysis employing a regional computable general equilibrium model has produced initial estimates. A University Center Technical Report and journal article are currently being developed. (Assignment continues.)
2. **Client:** Nevada Onion and Garlic Growers Association  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested to estimate the economic impacts of garlic, onion and garlic seed production and onion and garlic processing on the economy of the state of Nevada.

**Action:** A plan of work was developed and the work plan was accepted by the Nevada Onion and Garlic Growers Association (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona  
**Location of Project:** Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona  

**Nature of Project:** The regional economy is interested in further understanding the economic linkages between bordering communities. Over the next year, various work will be conducted including updating regional I/O model, targeted industries analysis, and selected industry/event impact studies.

**Action:** A regional advisory committee has been assembled representing both communities. This committee will meet monthly to discuss study progress and strategize ways to educate the general community (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** Town of Pahrump  
**Location of Project:** Pahrump, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Estimate the economic and fiscal impacts of a new proposed fairground on the Pahrump economy.

**Action:** An analysis was conducted and presented to the Town of Pahrump. University Center Bulletin currently being prepared. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Carson City Government  
**Location of Project:** Carson City, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Analysis of current commercial sector in Carson City. Study to derive leakages and opportunities for Carson City commercial sector development.

**Action:** Study completed to analyze socio-economic trends in Carson City. A questionnaire of local populace on shopping patterns is currently underway.

6. **Client:** Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona  
**Location of Project:** Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona

**Nature of Project:** The Mohave electric power plant was planning to shut down. Representatives of Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona requested an economic impact analysis of the Mohave electric power plant on the local economy.

**Action:** A study of the economic impacts of the Mohave electric power plant on the economies of Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona was completed. (Assignment completed.)


7. **Client:** Virginia City, Nevada  
**Location of Project:** Virginia City, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Development of a strategic tourism plan for Virginia City.

**Action:** A series of workshops have been completed to analyze current tourism and potential tourism activities in Virginia City. Questionnaires are being developed to analyze local populace opinions of tourism and a tourism inventory in Virginia City. (Assignment completed.)

D. **Technical and Management Assistance Projects:**

1. **Client:** State of Nevada  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Compilation and analysis of Regional Economic Information Source data.

**Action:** Publications were developed for the four cooperative extension regions of the state of Nevada. (Assignment completed.)


2. **Client:** Lander County  
**Location of Project:** Battle Mountain, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Analysis of local emergency medical systems of Battle Mountain.  

**Action:** Meeting between UCED staff and EMS staff of Battle Mountain on the nature of the local EMS system. Collection of EMS calls is currently underway. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** Elko County Economic Development Authority  
**Location of Project:** Élko, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested pull factor analysis of Elko County.  

**Action:** Pull factor analysis of Elko County retail sector completed and sent to Elko County Economic Development Authority. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Client:** Walker River Tribe  
**Location of Project:** Walker River Reservation  

**Nature of Project:** Requested by Walker River Tribe to develop a proposal to estimate economic impacts of reduced reservoir levels in Weber Lake because of leak in dam.  

**Action:** Proposal developed and sent to Walker River Tribe. (Assignment continues.)

E. **Counseling and Referral:**

1. **Client:** Washoe County Commission on the Arts  
**Location of Project:** Washoe County  

**Nature of Project:** Request for economic multipliers as to construction activities of the arts industry in Washoe County.  

**Action:** Construction multipliers calculated and sent to the Arts Commission (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Emporia State University  
**Location of Project:** Emporia, Kansas  

**Nature of Project:** Requested information and University Center publications on procedures to estimate local economic impacts of a state university.  

**Action:** University Center publications sent to Emporia State University. (Assignment completed.)
3. **Client:** Clark County, Nevada  
**Location:** Clark County  

**Nature of Project:** Requested information on certified agricultural products for the state of Nevada.

**Action:** Person referred to the State of Nevada Department of Agriculture who is responsible for the state of Nevada certified agricultural products program. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Client:** MarkeTeck Company  
**Location:** Washoe County, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested University Center study pertaining to estimation of economic impacts of casino industry on Washoe County economy.

**Action:** University Center publication sent to MarkeTeck. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Washoe County  
**Location:** Washoe County, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Request by person as to agricultural budgets in the state of Nevada.

**Action:** Appropriate agricultural budgets were sent to client. (Assignment completed).

6. **Client:** Nevada Science and Technology Corridor  
**Location:** Nye County, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested economic, employment, and income multipliers of a potential rocket plant in Nye County.

**Action:** Multipliers estimated and sent to Nevada Science and Technology Corridor. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** Colorado State University  
**Location:** Fort Collins, Colorado  

**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to tourism expenditures by alternative outdoor activities.

**Action:** Referred to departmental economists who have completed outdoor recreation expenditure budgets. (Assignment completed.)
F. Workshops and Seminars:

1. Location of Workshop: Deer Lodge County and Jefferson County, Montana  
   Nature of Seminar: Discussion of industrial targeting in Deer Lodge and Jefferson County,  
   Montana.

   Action: Made presentations on industrial targeting on Deer Lodge and Jefferson Counties,  
   Montana. (Assignment completed.)

2. Location of Workshop: Lovelock, Nevada  
   Nature of Seminar: Presented results of Operation Rural Health Project concerning the  
   economic impacts of the local health sector on Pershing County.

   Action: Results presented to citizens of Lovelock. (Assignment completed.)

3. Location of Workshop: Winnemucca, Nevada  
   Nature of Seminar: Discussion of industrial targeting study for Humboldt County, Nevada.

   Action: Preliminary results of an industrial targeting study presented to the Humboldt County  
   Economic Development Authority. (Assignment completed.)

4. Location of Workshop: Fallon, Nevada  
   Nature of Seminar: Fiscal issues for rural Nevada counties.

   Action: Workshop held on fiscal issues in rural Nevada and suggestions to address these issues.  
   (Assignment completed.)

G. Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:

1. Location of Conference: Washington, D.C.  
   Nature of Conference: Southern Regional Science Association Annual Meeting

   Action: Presented a selected paper on industrial targeting in rural U.S.

Harris, Thomas R. and Thomas Johnson. “Applications of IMPLAN for Targeted Rural  
Economic Development.”
H. Journal Articles and Fact Sheets

1. Published Journal Articles


The technical bulletins published during fiscal year 2002-2003 will be denoted by 2002/03. This provides recognition of work according to fiscal year.


