UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
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Prepared by

Thomas R. Harris, Director

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University Center for Economic Development
Department of Applied Economics and Statistics
University of Nevada, Reno
Mail Stop 204
Reno, NV 89557-0105
775/784-6499
Fax: 775/327-2225
e-mail: harris@cabnr.unr.edu
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 2003-2004. During the first quarter, the University Center produced six applied research projects, eight other research projects, eight technical and management assistance projects, eight counseling and referrals, and five workshops.

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; Mike Havercamp, State Extension Mediation and Group Facilitator Specialist, Jake Burkey, Research Associate; William O. Champney, Professor Emeritus and 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. Three technical reports were prepared for review during the first quarter of fiscal year 2003-2004 by the University Center. Three workshops were presented 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. 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. The web site has been upgraded to a database-driven format and Nevada state agency data may be defined for download using a web form, and are available in a choice of download formats. 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 2003 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:** Economic and fiscal data for the counties of Nevada have been collected and a publication of fiscal trends is being developed. A county economic-fiscal model is being developed to derive impacts of alternative federal programs of Nevada counties. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture  
   **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:** Telephone health care questionnaire has been developed for Gabbs, Nevada. An initial analysis of EMS service calls for Battle Mountain has been drafted. Also, an initial feasibility analysis of expansion of the Pershing General Hospital was completed. Additionally, areas for Rural Health Works analysis are being considered. (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 the number of firms 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:** Western Nevada Development District and Northeastern Nevada  
   **Location of Project:** Counties within Western Nevada Development District are Carson City, Douglas, Storey, Mineral, Lyon, Pershing, and Churchill. Counties in Northeastern Nevada are Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, and White Pine.

   **Nature of Project:** Complete an industrial targeting study for the Northeastern Nevada counties 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. Industrial targeting study for Rural Western Nevada Development District has been completed. Work is underway in development of an Urban Western Development District industrial targeting publication. (Assignment continues.)

5. **Client:** Central Nevada  
**Location of Project:** Central Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Assisted student in obtaining grant to investigate opportunities of organic farming and community supported agriculture in Central Nevada.  
**Action:** A proposal was drafted and approved by the Vice President of Academic Affairs. A publication is being drafted (Assignment continues.)

6. **Western Rural Development Center**  
**Location of Project:** Western States of the Nation  
**Nature of Project:** Development of a regional industrial targeting and community-business matching program.  
**Action:** Proposal drafted to develop a regional industrial targeting program and community-business matching computer program. (Assignment continues.)

7. **Nevada Landscape Association**  
**Location of Project:** Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Study included developing state economic model for four green industry sectors: plan production, landscape services, plant sales (wholesale and retail), and golf.  
**Action:** Primary operational data was collected through targeted questionnaires. Final analysis had been conducted and report is currently being prepared. Presentation is scheduled for industry annual meeting in November. (Assignment continues.)

C. **Other Research Projects:**

1. **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:** An analysis of water-based users and economics in the Laughlin/Bullhead City Area were estimated and published. (Assignment continues.)
2. **Client:** Comstock Tourism Group  
**Location of Project:** Storey and Lyon Counties and Carson City, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Develop a strategic tourism plan for the Comstock Center.

**Action:** Workshops were held in Dayton, Virginia City Highlands, Moundhouse, and Virginia City to obtain preferences for tourism development in the Comstock Area. Results of the workshops are being compiled into a University Center publication. The University Center will continue to offer its assistance to the Comstock Tourism Group in development of a strategic tourism plan. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** Bureau of Land Management  
**Location of Project:** Lyon County and Carson City, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Public opinion for potential national wild horse and burro adoption center and sanctuary.

**Action:** University Center personnel had meetings with state BLM officials pertaining to citizen preference questionnaire and feasibility study of a national wild horse and burro adoption center. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** Nevada Association of Counties  
**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Collect and analyze questionnaire to rural Nevadan’s requesting information as to needs for rural Nevada economic development and desires for creating a Nevada Rural Development Center.

**Action:** Questionnaires are being collected and a database is being developed for analysis. (Assignment continues.)

5. **Client:** State Emergency Medical System Project  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Analysis of EMS employee and volunteer questionnaire.

**Action:** EMS survey data have been completed into an SPSS database and an analysis has been published. (Assignment completed.)

6. **Client:** State Emergency Medical System Project  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Development and implementation of an EMS spreadsheet return/cost program.

**Action:** EMS spreadsheet return/cost program is currently being developed. (Assignment continues.)

7. **Client:** Nevada Office of Rural Health  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimate economic impacts of Medicaid Program on state of Nevada economy.

**Action:** Proposal drafted and data gathering has been initiated. (Assignment continues.)

8. **Client:** Nevada Association of Counties and Nevada Farm Bureau.  
**Location of Project:** Northern Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Feasibility analysis of potential livestock processing plant in Northeast Nevada.

**Action:** Initiated discussions and grant proposal for feasibility analysis of potential livestock processing plant in northeastern Nevada. (Assignment continues.)

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

1. **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. An analysis of Battle Mountain EMS runs has been completed and an analysis is being drafted. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** Dean’s Office of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources  
**Location of Project:** University of Nevada, Reno

**Nature of Project:** Development of Agricultural Innovative Center Grant.

**Action:** The University Center assisted the Dean’s Office of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources in developing initial draft of a regional Agricultural innovative Center. (Assignment continues.)
3. Client: Elko County Economic Development Authority (ECEDA)
   Location of Project: Northeastern Nevada Counties of Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, and White Pine

   Nature of Project: Assistance in developing feasibility grant for hub-satellite business incubator.

   Action: Assisted ECEDA in development of feasibility grant. (Assignment continues.)

4. Client: Pershing General Hospital
   Location of Project: Lovelock, Nevada

   Nature of Project: Completed a feasibility study of hospital expansion.

   Action: Feasibility analysis was completed and presented to the Pershing General Hospital Board. (Assignment completed.)

5. Client: Elko Chamber of Commerce
   Location of Project: Elko, Nevada

   Nature of Project: Request for a strategic planning project for Elko Chamber of Commerce.

   Action: A strategic planning session was held and work assignments made. The University Center continues to assist the Elko County Chamber of Commerce. (Assignment continues.)

6. Client: Sierra Pacific Power Company
   Location of Project: State of Nevada

   Nature of Project: Request to develop an empirical analysis of Nevada counties as regions.

   Action: Data for the regionalization analysis is being collected. (Assignment continues.)

7. Client: Churchill County Convention and Visitor’s Authority
   Location of Project: Churchill County, Nevada

   Nature of Project: Requested information needed to complete an impact analysis to Churchill County of closing of Sand Mountain to tourists.

   Action: Data required to complete an analysis was sent to the Authority. If an impact analysis is requested, an analysis will be completed. (Assignment continues.)

8. Client: Humboldt County
   Location of Project: Winnemucca, Nevada

   Nature of Project: Request to estimate potential ridership for a commercial airline in Winnemucca.

   Action: A questionnaire is being developed to determine potential ridership and fare charges for possible commercial airline in Winnemucca. (Assignment continues.)
9. **Client:** Moapa Valley  
**Location of Project:** Moapa Valley

**Nature of Project:** Provide ongoing technical assistance to community-organized strategic planning committee. This committee was assembled over two years ago. (Assignment continues.)

**E. Counseling and Referral:**

1. **Client:** Great Basin Primary Care Association  
**Location of Project:** Mesquite and Elko, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Request for Census 2000 data for Mesquite and Elko, Nevada.

**Action:** Data collected and sent to the Great Basin Primary Care Association. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** City of Winnemucca  
**Location of Project:** City of Winnemucca

**Nature of Project:** Requested information on USDA-Rural Development Project.

**Action:** Collected data and sent it to city of Winnemucca. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** University of California, Berkeley  
**Location:** State of California

**Nature of Project:** Requested information for development of a casino sector input vector for impact analysis.

**Action:** Procedures and data required to develop a casino sector input vector sent to a professor at the University of California, Berkeley. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Client:** Mineral County Economic Development Authority  
**Location:** Hawthorne, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Discuss procedures to develop a strategic economic development plan.

**Action:** Presentation on steps to complete an economic development strategic plan given. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Corporation for Enterprise Development  
**Location:** Washington, D.C.

**Nature of Project:** Request for publications covering factors that encourage entrepreneurship in states and rural areas.

**Action:** Publications collected and sent. (Assignment completed.)
6. **Client:** Great Basin College  
**Location:** Elko, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Request for copies of CEDS reports from other areas in the nation.  

**Action:** Copies and web addresses of CEDS developed in other areas of the nation sent to Great Basin College. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
**Location:** Mineral County  

**Nature of Project:** Discussion of workshops in Mineral County and how results could be used to develop a needs assessment for a new extension office in Mineral County.  

**Action:** Results of Mineral County strategic workshops discussed and results incorporated into a needs assessment for the new Mineral County cooperative extension office. (Assignment completed.)

8. **Client:** Churchill County Economic Development Authority  
**Location:** Churchill County  

**Nature of Project:** Requested data for number of dairy cattle in Nevada counties.  

**Action:** Data collected from Nevada Agricultural Statistical Service and sent to Churchill County Economic Development Authority. (Assignment completed.)

**F. Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Location of Workshop:** Carson City, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** Discussion of the viability of a State Rural Development Council in Nevada.  

**Action:** Attended meeting and assisted in developing request for formation of a Nevada State Rural Development Council. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Location of Workshop:** Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** Discussion of state government fiscal issues in the western United States. The workshop was sponsored by the Western Rural Development Center.  

**Action:** Present trends and current actions occurring on the state budget in the state of Nevada. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Location of Workshop:** Virginia City, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** Discussion of joint efforts with the School of Business for marketing of Virginia City.  

**Action:** Meeting held with Dean of Business School to develop an internship for marketing Virginia City. (Assignment completed.)
4. **Location of Workshop:** Pahrump, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** Socioeconomic profile, retail leakage, and strategies for economic development.

**Action:** Materials being prepared for October/November workshop.
4. Location of Seminar: Washington, D.C.
Nature of Seminar: Attended and participated in national Economic Development Administration meeting.

Action: Attended national meeting in Washington, D.C. (Assignment completed.)

5. Location of Seminar: Elko, Nevada
Nature of Seminar: Strategic plan for economic development in the Elko/Spring Creek, Nevada area.

Action: A strategic economic development workshop was completed for Elko/Spring Creek, Nevada Area. (Assignment completed.)
The technical bulletins published during fiscal year 2002-2003 will be denoted by 2002/03. This provides recognition of work according to fiscal year.

