UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
For the Period
1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005
Prepared by

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Summary: In April 2005, 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 profile statewide and technical assistance on economic development for the first quarter of FY 2005-2006. During the first quarter, the University Center produced nine applied research projects, nine other research projects, eleven technical and management assistance projects, eight counseling and referrals, one workshop, two technical presentations and/or lectures, and two accepted journal articles.

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; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Associate; Gaylene Nevers, Research Associate; Joan Wright, Graduate Research Assistant; Billye French and Genet Sauer, Administrative Assistants; George “Buddy” W. 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. Five technical reports were published during the first quarter fiscal year 2005-2006 by the University Center. The University Center assisted the Nevada Rural Development Council in the organization and presentation of the Rural Nevada Summit. The University Center presented a half-day workshop at the Rural Nevada Summit on socio-economic data and analysis. The University Center also has been organizing a workshop of Western State University Centers to highlight entrepreneurship and technology transfer for economic development. The University Center also presented and completed a workshop on strategic planning and socio-economic data analysis for Lyon County.

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 in its seventeen counties and selected historical and current economic data from various state agencies. Data may be defined for download using a web forms, 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 2005 are currently online in Adobe PDF format.

B. Applied Research:

1. Client: City of Sparks

   **Location of Project:** City of Sparks, Rest of Washoe County, and Carson City Labor Market Area, and Northern California

   **Nature of Project:** Competitive cluster study for the City of Sparks and surrounding areas of Washoe County, the Carson City LMA, and Northern California

   **Action:** A competitive cluster study was completed for the City of Sparks. Executive summaries of results are currently being developed. (Assignment continues).

Harris, Thomas R., Alison Davis, Elizabeth Fadali, Gaylene Nevers, Joan Wright, Simona Balazs and Slavica Karastankovic. “Identifying the Economic Drivers and
Import Substitutes Opportunities for the Western Nevada Study Area with Application to the City of Sparks”. UCED 2005/06-03, June 2005

2. **Client:** Eureka County Commissioners

**Location of Project:** Eureka County

**Nature of Project:** Develop a countywide input-output model of Eureka County.

**Action:** Firm level data has been collected and a University Center publication of the updated Eureka County input-output model has been developed. An interactive EXCEL spreadsheet of the input-output model is currently being developed. (Assignment completed).


3. **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.

**Action:** Economic impacts of health care sector on fifteen Nevada economies are currently being calculated. This year’s analysis will employ the new North American Industrial Classification System to derive health care sector impacts and target White Pine County for detailed analysis of health care system for this year. Also, a study to derive economic impacts of Nevada’s hospitals is being developed for the Nevada Hospital Association. (Assignment continues).

4. **Client:** Rural Development Centers

**Location of Project:** Rural access of the United States

**Nature of Project:** Development of materials addressing industrial and cluster targeting for rural areas of the U.S.

**Action:** Initial conference held in Orlando and outreach materials and possible granting opportunities are being developed and explored. (Assignment continues).

5. **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 country. A presented paper for the 2005 Southern Regional Science Association meetings is being developed from initial research findings. (Assignment Continues.)

6. Client: Western Rural Development Center

Location of Project: Western States of the Nation

Nature of Project: Western States of Nevada, Montana, and Hawaii are developing a model to match businesses with community economic development preferences.

Action: Proposal drafted to develop a regional industrial targeting program and community-business matching computer program. This proposal has been accepted by the Western Rural Development Center. (Assignment continues.)

7. Client: Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Estimation of location factors for biotechnology firms at the state level. Also economic impacts of the biotechnology firms in Nevada are being estimated.

Action: Location data collected and analysis run, an initial econometric model developed and a paper accepted at the 9th International Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology: Ten Years After, organized by the International Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology Research in Ravello, Italy. Paper titled as


8. Client: Bureau of Reclamation

Location of Project: Truckee Meadows Area

Nature of Project: Develop a proposal to update the Truckee Meadows input-output model for the Bureau of Reclamation.
Action: A proposal has been developed and sent to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Once the proposal is accepted, an update of the Truckee Meadows input-output model will begin. (Assignment continues).

9. Client: Nevada Hospital Association

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Requested information as to the economic impact of hospitals on the Nevada economy.

Action: Impacts have been estimated, publication developed, and testimony give to the Nevada State Legislators. (Assignment completed).


C. Other Research Projects:

1. Client: Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission

Location of Project: Truckee Meadows Area of Nevada

Nature of Project: Develop data as requested on the Washoe County and surrounding area as to economic growth in the Truckee Meadows Area.

Action: Collect and analyzed data and send results as requested to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission. (Assignment continues).

2. Client: Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona

Location of Project: Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona

Nature of Project: The regional economy continues to be interested in understanding economic linkages between bordering communities. Previous center programs and studies have significantly helped the regional economy grow and prosper with industry/employment expansion. The regional economy is now ready for an update to previous programs and studies. The Center has been requested to update socio-economic profiles, input-output models, and household expenditures. A secondary program will be constructed over the next year that will focus on economic development targeted industry and diversification. In the next two months a research proposal will be developed and submitted to conduct this work in 2005.

Action: Specific action will include collection of primary and secondary community data for use of socio-economic profiles, input-output regional models, and targeted
industry analysis. In addition, community planning processes will be conducted. (Assignment continues).

3. **Client:** Lyon County Commissioners

**Location of Project:** Lyon County

**Nature of Project:** Complete a feasibility study of a proposed national wild horse and burro interpretative center in Lyon County, Nevada.

**Action:** University Center working with Lyon County Commissioners in developing and completing a feasibility study of the proposed national wild horse and burro interpretative center. Also a questionnaire has been developed to elicit potential changes in wild horse and burro adoption rates if the national wild horse and burro interpretative center existed. An initial feasibility report to estimate break even conditions presented to Lyon County. (Assignment continues).

4. **Client:** Nevada Rural Development Council

**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Development and maintenance of a web page for the Nevada Rural Development Council.

**Action:** A web page has been developed for the Nevada Rural Development Council. Web page is being expanded. The website is currently hosted by the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources at: [http://www.nevrdc.org](http://www.nevrdc.org). The website maintenance is ongoing. (Assignment continues).

5. **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:** Initiated an application of EMS analysis in Eureka County. (Assignment continues.)

6. **Client:** Nevada Wildland Seed Producers Association

**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Develop a web page for the Nevada Wildland Seed Producers Association.
Action: UCED has been engaged to develop a web page to market and inform users of native seed products and services provided by the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the association of growers. Finalization of what is to be developed is still in committee with the Nevada Wildland Seed Producers Association. The website will be hosted initially by the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources with relocation after development to a third-party server with purchase of an association domain. (Assignment continues).

7. Client: Eureka County

Location of Project: Eureka, Nevada

Nature of Project: Request for investment analysis for possible wind generators for groundwater pumping for Diamond Valley Hay Growers.

Action: Initial grant drafted for Governor’s Energy Office to develop a microcomputer feasibility model for wind generation analysis. Also collecting data for specific capital budgeting analysis for wind generation in Diamond Valley. (Assignment continues).

8. Client: Nevada Rural Development Council

Location of Project: Rural Nevada

Nature of Project: Investigate the potential supply of small diameter wood in rural Nevada and outline steps for development of an incubator for rural Nevada.

Action: University Center Technical Bulletin developed covering small diameter wood supply issues and steps for forming a rural incubator. (Assignment continues).


9. Client: Lyon County

Location of Project: Lyon County

Nature of Project: Requested to assist Lyon County with developing a strategic plan for the county.

Action: Completed socio-economic data trend analysis for Lyon County. Data used for strategic planning meeting.
D. **Technical and Management Assistance Projects:**

1. **Client:** Lander County

   **Location of Client:** Lander County

   **Nature of Project:** Request to estimate Local Unemployment rate for Lander County.

   **Action:** A labor questionnaire for Lander County has been developed and surveys of randomly selected households have begun. When surveying is completed, a publication will be development to analyze unemployment in Lander County. (Assignment Continues).

2. **Client:** City of Mesquite, Nevada

   **Location of Project:** Mesquite, Nevada

   **Nature of Project:** Request for assistance to estimate unemployment rate and underemployment in Mesquite, Nevada. Questionnaire is currently being implemented. The University Center is currently analyzing the data for the City of Wells.

   **Action:** University Center personnel working with City of Mesquite personnel have developed a questionnaire for Mesquite, Nevada to estimate local unemployment rate and underemployment. (Assignment continues).

3. **Client:** Dean’s Office of the College of Agriculture, biotechnology, and Natural Resources.

   **Location 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).

4. **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 web-based interactive database to manage projects funded by the Great Basin Cooperative Extension Studies Unit.

**Action:** The University Center assisted the Dean’s Office of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources will maintain the existing website and develop a web-interactive project initiation and management database for use by partner institutions (land management agencies). (Assignment continues).

5. **Client:** Elko Economic Development Authority

**Location of Project:** Elko County, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Request for assistance to derive business relocation opportunities in Northeastern Nevada and Utah.

**Action:** Data is being collected. Once collected, an analysis will indicate relocation opportunity for Elko, Nevada. (Assignment continues).

6. **Client:** Moapa Valley, Nevada

**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.

**Action:** Planning Committee has been meeting regularly and the University Center has provided information and analysis as requested. (Assignment continues).

7. **Client:** Cooperative Extension

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Extension publication on in-communities and out-communities for the state of Nevada and the seventeen counties.

**Action:** In-communities and out communities data being collected at the state and county level. A University Technical report is being completed. (Assignment continues).

8. **Client:** Nevada Youth Entrepreneurship Project

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Request to set up compressed video to discuss youth entrepreneurship program.

**Action:** Compressed video programs being scheduled (assignment continues).
9. **Client:** Nevada Rural Development Council  
**Location:** Minden, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Assisted in formulation of Rural Nevada Summit and organized and presented three work sessions.  
**Action:** Nevada Rural Summit was held in Minden, Nevada from June 27 to 29. A copy of the agenda is shown in Appendix A.

10. **Client:** Mineral County Commissioners  
**Location:** Mineral County  
**Nature of Project:** Hawthorne Ammunitions Plant was placed on national proposed base closure list. Request made to University Center to estimate potential socio-economic impacts of proposed base closure on Mineral County economy.  
**Action:** Estimation and analysis of socio-economic impacts to the Mineral County economy from potential closure of the Hawthorne Ammunition Dump was made. Results sent to Mineral County Commissioners in a memorandum. (Assignment completed).

11. **Client:** Western States  
**Location of Client:** Sparks, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Development workshop of western States University Centers to discuss implications of entrepreneurship and technology transfer for economic development.  
**Action:** Workshop being developed for presentation on August 8 to 10 in Sparks, Nevada. (Assignment continues).

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Lyon County Commissioners  
**Location of Project:** Lyon County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested copy of University Center technical bulletin addressing fiscal issues in Lyon County.  
**Action:** University Center technical publication listed below found and mailed. (Assignment completed).
2. **Client:** City of Wendover  
**Location of Project:** City of Wendover  
**Nature of Project:** Requested a proposal on the economic linkages of Wendover to the State of Utah economy.  
**Action:** Proposal drafted and sent. (Assignment completed).  

3. **Client:** Mineral County Economic Development Authority  
**Location of Project:** Mineral County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to median age of workforce in Mineral County.  
**Action:** Median age of Mineral County workforce was collected and memorandum sent to the Mineral County Economic Development Authority. (Assignment completed).  

4. **Client:** Humboldt County Economic Development Authority  
**Location of Project:** Humboldt County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested meeting to assist Humboldt County Economic Development Authority members to understand published University Center reports on socio-economic trends in Humboldt County.  
**Action:** Meeting held and socio-economic trends explained. (Assignment completed).  

5. **Client:** Universita di Bologna  
**Location of Project:** Universita di Bologna  
**Nature of Project:** Faculty members of Universita di Bologna requested information as to application of Computable General Equilibrium makes for water resource allocation.  
**Action:** Several journal articles were copied as well as University Center technical bulletins sent to Universita di Bologna.  

6. **Client:** University of Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.  
**Location of Project:** State of Maine
Nature of Project: Requested University Center Director to review proposed Maine Agricultural Experiment Station Project.

Action: Proposal reviewed and review sent back to University of Maine Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

7. Client: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Location: Washington, DC

Nature of Project: Review a SBIR/Agriculture grant.

Action: Grant reviewed and review sent back to U.S. Department of Agriculture. (Assignment Completed)

8. Client: Nevada Small Business Development Center

Location: Northwest Nevada

Nature of Project: Requested information on the nursery costs and returns budget.

Action: Collect costs and returns data and sent budgets to the Nevada Small Business Development Center. (Assignment completed).

F. Workshops and Seminars:

1. Client: Lyon County Government

Location of Workshop: Lyon County

Nature of Workshop: Develop a strategic plan for county government department facing rapid growth.

Action: Outline of strategic plan was developed. Specific points of strategic plan being refined. (Assignment completed).

G. Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff

1. Client: Rural Nevada Summit

Location of Seminar: Minden, Nevada

Nature of Seminar: Discussion of applications and analysis of socio-economic data for economic development.

Action: Half-day seminar presented. (Assignment completed).
2. **Client:** Rural Nevada Summit

**Location of Seminar:** Minden, Nevada

**Nature of Seminar:** National trends in state and local government finances.

**Action:** Made two concurrent presentations at the Rural Nevada Summit. (Assignment completed).

**H. Journal Articles and Fact Sheets:**

1. **Journal articles accepted:**


Harris, Thomas R., Alison Davis, Elizabeth Fadali, Gaylene Nevers, Joan Wright, Simona Balazs and Slavica Karastankovic. “Identifying the Economic Drivers and Import Substitution Opportunities for the Western Nevada Study Area with Application to the City of Sparks”, UCED 2005/06-03, June 2005


Appendix A:

Rural Nevada Summit
Session Topics

The Agony and the Ecstasy: Delivering College Programs to Rural Nevada
This workshop will review Nevada's universities and community colleges' mission to deliver classes/programs to rural communities within the state and changes in the way to achieve those missions with the advent of web-based instruction and other technologies. A panel will stimulate a dialogue regarding what is currently happening; what should be happening; what has or hasn't worked; and how do we pay the costs, including the responsibility of the institutions to provide educational and training opportunities for businesses/industries in an effort to support the economic development of rural Nevada.

Are We Broke Yet?: Rural Nevada County Government Budgets and Stress
Listen to an overview of state and county taxes in Nevada and nationally; the relationship of Nevada's tax system to economic growth; the differential in Nevada's rural counties with property tax changes; and does growth really pay for itself.

Finding Our Economic Future
Community leaders from Laughlin, Ely and Hawthorne will share how they have been able to get on track to make positive changes and significant progress toward development because they have taken the time to do community assessments and planning.

Educational and Technical Assistance For Rural Water Systems
Panel members will discuss water importation and how water law in Nevada works.

Energy Efficiency for Small Business
This session will present the basics of energy efficiency, as well as some of the most common and high-priority energy saving opportunities. The audience will be informed of numerous available resources including free online guides for specific implementation and calculators of energy saving projections.

From Ranches and Farms to Market
Learn about the potential impact of burgeoning Farmers Markets and opportunities for expanding agriculture diversification; grant opportunities through USDA Rural Development; and program information on Nevada Grown and Made in Nevada.

Growing Business in Your Neighborhood
Learn the small business start-up requirements, the business plan process and other resources available to assist businesses attain success.

Implementation Strategies
Participants will enumerate specific activities they would like to see for Rural Nevada. This type of consensus will assist development of the annual work plan for the Nevada Rural Development Council.

Just How Healthy Is Rural Nevada Health Care: Current and Future Issues
Presenters will outline the economic impacts of Rural Health Care and Relationships to Rural Economic Development; Health Care Workforce Issues; and Medicaid Issues. There will also be a wrap up on health issues covered during the Nevada Legislature Session.

The 2005 Fire Season: Are We Ready?
A look at the resources in place for the 2005 fire season; how communities can form chapters of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, and the benefits, as well as how communities can use community assessments as documentation to request grant money for mitigation of hazardous fuels build up in the urban interface, and for an increase in community fire protection resources.

NCOT: Your Partner in Tourism
Meet members and staff of the Nevada Commission on Tourism staff and find out what opportunities exist for rural communities.

Where Do Tomorrow’s Leaders Come From?
Edward Rhodes from the Rural Leadership Center will advise rural and agricultural leaders on how to expand their leadership skills, and to seek solutions to complex problems such as rural urban interface, the management and use of natural resources, economic development, regional planning, and communicating information on key public policy issues.

Thank Our Sponsors
Sierra Pacific Power Company
Wells Fargo Bank
Greater Nevada Credit Union
Intertech Services Corporation
Nevada Commission on Economic Development
Nevada Small Business Development Center
Rural Nevada Development Corporation
University of Nevada School of Medicine and the State Office of Rural Health

Pre-Conference Workshops
Cowboy Economic Analysis 101
This workshop will explain why economic data is essential, how to do analysis of economic data, how to display it, and how to interpret economic data.

Hands on Banking: Financial Literacy
Everyone is interested in money, and how to be a better money manager. This program offers great educational tools for the entire family to gain new knowledge and skills to create a brighter financial future, and contains no commercial content.

Funding Development
Extensive information will be presented on techniques and opportunities for grantwriting, corporate sponsoring, planned giving and fundraising.
Monday, June 27

7:30 am – 4:00 pm Registration
8:30 am – 9:45 am Breakout Sessions
- Just How Healthy Is Rural Nevada Health Care: Current and Future Issues
- NCOT: Your Partner in Tourism
- Delivering College Programs to Rural Nevada
- Energy Efficiency

11:45 am – 12:50 pm Luncheon
Keynote Speaker
Mark Drabenstott, Vice President and Director, Center for the Study of Rural America, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

1:00 pm – 2:15 pm Breakout Sessions
- Just How Healthy Is Rural Nevada Health Care: Current and Future Issues
- NCOT: Your Partner in Tourism
- Finding Our Economic Future
- Are We Broke Yet?: Rural Nevada County Government Budgets and Stress

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm Break

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm Breakout Sessions
- Delivering College Programs to Rural Nevada
- Energy Efficiency
- Finding Our Economic Future
- Are We Broke Yet?: Rural Nevada County Government Budgets and Stress

4:15 – 5:30 pm General Session
The 2005 Fire Season: Are We Ready?

6:00 pm Dinner

Tuesday, June 28

7:30 am – 4:00 pm Registration
7:30 am – 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am – 8:45 am Welcome
Gilbert Gonzales, Acting Under Secretary USDA Rural Development

8:45 am – 10:00 am General Session
Rural Legislative Review – Bob Hadfield, Moderator
Assemblymen Richard Perkins, Lynn Hettrick, Tom Grady
Senators Dean Rhoads, Mike McGinnis, Mark Amodei

10:00 am Break

Wednesday, June 29

7:30 am – 8:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am – 9:45 am Breakout Sessions
- Education & Technical Assistance For Rural Water Systems
- From Ranches/Farms to Market
- Growing Business in Your Neighborhood
- Where Do Tomorrow’s Leaders Come From?

9:45 am – 10:00 am Break

10:00 am – 11:15 am Breakout Sessions
- Where Do Tomorrow’s Leaders Come From?
- From Ranches/Farms to Market
- Energy Efficiency
- Delivering College Programs to Rural Nevada
- Finding Our Economic Future
- Are We Broke Yet?: Rural Nevada County Government Budgets and Stress

11:15 am – 11:45 pm General Session
Distance Learning and Telemedicine
Harry Hudson, USDA Rural Utilities Services

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm Post Conference Broadband Workshop
Harry Hudson, USDA Rural Utilities Services

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm Breakout Sessions

4:15 – 5:30 pm General Session
The 2005 Fire Season: Are We Ready?

6:00 pm Dinner

Contact: Karen Grillo or Jo-Anna Nakata
Phone: 775-887-2553 Fax: 775-887-2585 Email: nrdc@gbis.com www.nevrdc.com

75 rooms have been blocked for this conference at a rate of $71.10 per night.
Reservations: 775-783-6629 or 800-321-6983 Ext. 1 (Group #474332)

Mail completed registration and $55 ($45 if received before June 17) to:
Nevada Rural Development Council
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