University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
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Prepared by

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Summary: In June 2006, the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno changed its funding cycle to begin on the month of June. Therefore, the quarterly reports after 2006 start in the month of June. The University Center for Economic Development continued to profile statewide and technical assistance on economic development for the first quarter of FY 2006-2007. During the first quarter, the University Center produced five applied research projects, four other research projects, seven technical and management assistance projects, four counseling and referrals, one workshop, two technical presentations, and one accepted and published referred 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; Mike Havercamp, State Extension Mediation and Group Facilitator Specialist; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Associate; Shannon Price, Research Associate; John 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. Three technical reports were published during the first quarter fiscal year 2006-2007 by the University Center. One workshop was presented by the University Center for presentation of economic data and results of past projects. Two presentations were made by the University Center Director.

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 in its seventeen counties and selected historical and current economic data from various state agencies. 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 2006 are currently online in Adobe PDF format.

B. Applied Research:

1. Client: Nevada Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Estimate the economic impacts of graduates of the WICHE program on the state of Nevada economy. For example, the state of Nevada does not have a School of Veterinary Medicine. Students from Nevada apply to go to out of state Veterinary Schools through the WICHE program. Students must after graduation work in assigned areas of the state as repayment for the WICHE program.

Action: Data has been collected as to location of WICHE graduates in the state of Nevada and their professions. An economic impact analysis was completed which estimated the statewide economic impacts of the WICHE program on selected profession. A University Center Technical bulletin is currently being developed. (Assignment continues).
2. **Client:** Laughlin, Nevada

**Location of Project:** Border Area of Nevada and Arizona.

**Nature of Project:** Estimate employment and economic impacts of closure of the Mohave Power Plant.

**Action:** A technical assistance proposal was developed for the Laughlin Area to derive employment mitigation strategies and sent to the Economic Development Administration. The proposal was accepted and study has been initiated. (Assignment continues).

3. **Client:** Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station.

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

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

**Action:** Detailed econometric models have been developed to estimate the factors of location for biotechnology firms. Also interdependence of location of biotechnology firms is being estimated. (Assessment continues).

4. **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:** A community business matching model has been developed and is currently being applied in Anaconda, Montana and the Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City Arizona. A users’ manual is being developed. (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.

**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 county level health care sector impacts. (Assignment continues)

### C. Other Research Projects

1. **Client**: Walker River Basin

   **Location of Project**: Walker River Basin

   **Nature of Project**: Estimation of economic impacts of surface purchases in Lyon County for fresh water flow to Walker Lake.

   **Action**: Three proposals were developed and submitted for the Walker River Basin Study. With notice of acceptance study will be initialed. (Assignment continues).

2. **Client**: Truckee Forest Hospital

   **Location of Project**: Truckee Forest Hospital Service Area.

   **Nature of Project**: Estimation of economic impacts of construction and operation activities of the Truckee Forest Hospital on the Truckee Forest Hospital Area economy.

   **Action**: A proposal was drafted and sent to Truckee Forest Hospital. With acceptance of proposed study will be initialed. (Assignment continues).
3. Client: University of Nevada Medical School

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic impacts of University of Nevada Medical School activities on the Nevada economy.

**Action:** Research proposal drafted and sent to University of Nevada Medical School administration. Once proposal is accepted, data collection will be initiated. (Assignment continues).

4. Client: Elko County Commissions

**Location of Project:** Elko County

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic impacts of public land grazing on the Elko County economy.

**Action:** Proposal drafted and accepted by Elko County Commissioners. Data collection and analysis has been initiated. Three University Center Technical bulletins have been published. (Assignment completed).


Alevy, Jonathan, Elizabeth Fadali, and Thomas R. Harris. “Analysis of Impacts of Public Land Grazing on the Elko County Economy and Mountain City Management Area: Economic Impacts of Federal Grazing in Elko County”. UCED 2006/07-03.
D. **Technical and Management Assistance Projects:**

1. **Client:** National Extension  

   **Location of Project:** Nationally  

   **Nature of Project:** The USDA National Extension Service has developed a program area called eXtension: Entrepreneurship. This will be a national program to develop entrepreneurship extension education tools for the internet.  

   **Action:** Initial meeting in Nashville, Tennessee to develop work plan and to outline entrepreneurship extension materials for the internet. (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 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 and 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).

3. **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).
4. Client: Cooperative Extension

Location of Project: State of Nevada

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

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

5. 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).

6. Client: Coeur Rochester Mining Company

Location of Project: Pershing County


Action: Economic impacts of mine closure estimated, technical bulletin drafted, and results sent to Coeur Rochester Mining Company and Pershing County. A University Center technical bulletin is being developed. (Assessment completed).

7. Client: Washoe County

Location of Project: Washoe County

Nature of Project: Estimate impacts of homeless on Washoe County medical and mental health facilities.

Action: Data is being collected from Washoe County hospitals and mental health facilities. (Assignment continues).
E. Counseling and Referrals:

1. **Client:** State of Nevada EDA Representative

   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada

   **Native of Project:** Requested copies of University Center publications that are related to the Mohave Power Plant Area.

   **Action:** Five University Center technical bulletins were copied and sent to State of Nevada EDA Representative. (Assignment completed)

2. **Client:** White Pine County Commissions

   **Location of Project:** White Pine County

   **Nature of Project:** Requested studies and analysis of economic impacts of pumping ground water from the Spring Creek Area of White Pine County to the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

   **Action:** Data and analysis sent to county officials. (Assignment completed).

3. **Client:** State of Nevada Commission or Economic Development

   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada

   **Nature of Project:** Discussed potential studies of interest to the State Commission on Economic Development.

   **Action:** Meeting held and list of potential research projects were outlined (Assignment completed).

4. **Client:** Fallon Paiute Tribe

   **Location of Project:** Churchill County

   **Nature of Project:** Estimation of potential commercial sector opportunities for the Fallon Paiute Tribe.

   **Action:** A list of proposals outlines and proposals will be drafted later. (Assignment completed).
F. Workshops and Seminars:

1. **Client:** Douglas County Business Advocacy, Group.

**Location of Workshops:** Douglas County

**Nature of Workshop:** Presentation on session titled “Fiscal Lessons in state of Nevada and Douglas County”.

**Action:** Made presentation on current and future fiscal problems and trends for the state of Nevada and Douglas County. (Assignment continues).

G. Technical Presentation and Lectures by University Center Staff:

1. **Client:** White Pine Country

   **Location of Workshop:** Carson City, Nevada

   **Nature of Workshop:** State of Nevada Water Engineer Hearing

   **Action:** Gave testimony as to the potential economic impacts of ground water importation from White Pine County by the Southern Nevada Water Authority to Las Vegas. (Assignment completed).

2. **Client:** Western States Association of Tax Administrators.

   **Location of Workshop:** South Lake Tahoe Nevada

   **Nature of Workshop:** Workshop panel titled “Property Tax Limitations – And the Secondary Effects on Equity, Transparency and Local Government?”

   **Action:** Gave presentation on State of Nevada three percent property tax limitation (Assignment completed).

H. Journal Articles and Fact Sheets:


Alevy, Jonathan, Elizabeth Fadali, and Thomas R. Harris. “Analysis of Impacts of Public Land Grazing on the Elko County Economy and Mountain City Management Area: Economic Impacts of Federal Grazing in Elko County”. UCED 2006/07-03.