University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
For the Period
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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 in the month of June. Therefore, the quarterly reports after 2006 start with 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 2007-2008. During the first quarter, the University Center produced six applied research projects, four other research projects, eleven technical and management assistance projects, twelve counseling and referrals, one workshop, one technical presentation, two Cooperative Extension fact sheets under review, and two journal articles under review.

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; Jonathan Alevy, Research Assistant Professor, Man-Keun Kim, Research Assistant Professor, Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Associate; Shannon Price, Research Associate; Joan Wright, Graduate Research Assistant; Sue Strom and Genet Sauer, Administrative Assistants; and George “Buddy” W. Borden, Community Development Specialist, who 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:

The 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. Four technical reports were published with two Cooperative Extension fact sheets and two journal articles under review during the first quarter, fiscal year 2007/2008 by the University Center. One workshop was offered by the University Center to present economic data and results of a past project.

The Center currently maintains a web page. The address is http://www.ag.unr.edu/uced. From this web page, a person is 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. 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:


Location of Project: Colorado River Regional Economy.

Nature of Project: An economic adjustment grant from EDA to assist the regional economy to develop a regional economic development strategy to mitigate the loss of jobs at the Mohave Generating Station.

Action: Community Business Matching (CBM) Model methodology is being used for this program. This involves a regional process that includes a regional advisory committee. To date this program has produced:

- The 25 member Regional Advisory Committee has met seven times.
- The Regional Advisory Committee participated in introductory training session on CBM methodology.
- The Regional Advisory Committee assisted the University Center administer goal/priority surveys to over 75 resident groups.
- The Regional Advisory Committee assisted the University Center in collecting regional asset and infrastructure inventory data.
- University Center staff developed a computer generated model to input local data.
• Preliminary results have been generated and will be shared with the community during the next quarter.

Anticipated program and final report to be completed by December 2007.

(Assignment continues.)

2. **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. Economic impacts of the biotechnology firms in Nevada are also being estimated.

**Action:** Detailed econometric models have been developed to estimate the factors of location for biotechnology firms. Interdependence of location of biotechnology firms is being estimated. A Master’s Thesis was completed on this topic. A University Center Technical Bulletin and journal article are being developed. (Assignment continues.)

3. **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, Laughlin, Nevada, and Bullhead City, Arizona. A users’ manual is being developed. (Assignment continues.)

4. **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 the healthcare 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.) Publications developed are:


5. **Client:** Lander County Commissioners.
**Location of Project:** Lander County, Nevada.
**Nature of Project:** Requested Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis of growth in Lander County.
**Action:** GIS data is being collected and an analysis will be run. A proposal is also being developed for a housing analysis of Lander County. (Assignment continues.)

6. **Client:** State of California Prison Industries.
**Location of Project:** State of California.
**Nature of Project:** Estimate the economic impacts of the California Prison Industries on the State of California economy.
**Action:** Developed a proposal for estimating the impacts and sent it to California Prison Industries. When contract is accepted, work on estimating these economic impacts will begin. (Assignment continues.)

C. **Other Research Projects**

1. **Client:** Walker River Basin.
**Location of Project:** Walker River Basin.
**Nature of Project:** Estimation of the economic impacts of surface purchases in Lyon County for fresh water flow to Walker Lake.
**Action:** Two proposals were submitted and accepted for the Walker River Basin Study. The University Center was notified of acceptance of the proposals. Studies have been initiated. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** Nye County Commissioners.
**Location of Project:** Nye County.
**Nature of Project:** Nye County Commissioners requested information as to the potential employment impacts by the closure of the Tonopah Test Site or Complex 2030.
**Action:** Proposal drafted and accepted by Nye County Commissioners and a study of the potential closure of Complex 2030 has been initiated. The program is starting with the administration of two questionnaires (employee and resident) in the next two months. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** Elko County Commissioners.
**Location of Project:** Elko County.
**Nature of Project:** A draft proposal was developed for acceptance by Elko County Commissioners. A University Center publication was developed and sent to the Elko
County Commissioners on the economic impacts of the hard rock mining sector on the economy of the Elko Micropolitan Study Area. (Assignment continues.)


4. Client: Western Governor’s Association.
Location of Project: Tahoe Basin.
Action: A presentation was made and a publication developed which covered biomass potential in the Tahoe Basin. (Assignment completed.)

D. Technical and Management Assistance Projects:

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).

Location of Project: Washoe County.
Nature of Project: Develop forward economic indicators for Washoe County and develop indicator for success of Washoe 2010 Project.
Action: A research proposal to develop forward indicators for Washoe County and indicator for success for 2010 Washoe County Project was developed and forwarded to Washoe County Government. (Assignment continues).

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 its seventeen counties.
   **Action:** In-commuters and out-commuters data is being collected at the state and county level. A University Center 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 are being scheduled. (Assignment continues.)

6. **Client:** Nevada Small Business Development Center.
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada.
   **Nature of Project:** Completed data analysis and developed draft on the economic impacts of NxLevel entrepreneurs on the Nevada economy.
   **Action:** Impact analysis completed and information used in an initial draft of impacts of NxLevel entrepreneurs on the Nevada economy. (Assignment continues.)

7. **Client:** New Frontiers Treatment Center.
   **Location of Project:** Fallon, Nevada.
   **Nature of Project:** A request for an initial feasibility study to rebuild New Frontier Treatment Center that burned in March 2007.
   **Action:** Data collection and feasibility analysis has been completed for rebuilding the New Frontier Treatment Center with funding by USDA-Rural Development. (Assignment completed.)


8. **Client:** Humboldt General Hospital.
   **Location of Project:** Winnemucca, Nevada.
   **Nature of Project:** A feasibility analysis of adding long-term beds to Humboldt General Hospital.
   **Action:** Feasibility study of adding long-term beds to Humboldt General Hospital was completed. (Assignment completed.)

9. **Client:** Lyon County Commissioners.  
**Location of Project:** Lyon County.  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information and a workshop on economic and fiscal trends in Lyon County.  
**Action:** Data is being collected and a workshop being planned. (Assignment continues.)

10. **Client:** Walker River Paiute Tribe.  
**Location of Project:** Walker River Paiute Tribe Reservation.  
**Nature of Project:** Assistance with Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).  
**Action:** Series of meetings and CEDS process to be initiated at the Walker River Paiute Reservation. (Assignment continues.)

11. **Client:** Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.  
**Location of Project:** Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation.  
**Nature of Project:** Requested assistance in helping Pyramid Lake Tribe with Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and economic impact study of Native American Tribe Reservations in Nevada.  
**Action:** Sent proposal of assistance in developing CEDS and proposal on estimating economic impacts of Native American Reservations on the Nevada economy. (Assignment continues.)

**E. Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Penn State University.  
**Location of Project:** Department of Agricultural Economics at Penn State University.  
**Nature of Project:** Requested copy of Churchill Communications Study.  
**Action:** University Center technical bulletin and journal article found and sent to Penn State. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Colorado State University.  
**Location of Project:** Cooperative Extension in Colorado.  
**Nature of Project:** Requested location information as to military employment data by county.
Action: Data sources collected and sent to Colorado State. (Assignment completed.)

3. Client: Washoe County Resident.
Location of Project: State of Nevada.
Nature of Project: Requested information pertaining to crops sold at Farmers Market.
Action: List of crops collected and sent. (Assignment completed.)

4. Client: Washoe County Recreation and Planning Department.
Location of Project: Washoe County.
Nature of Project: Requested information as to post economic studies on trails for tourism.
Action: Studies collected and sent to Washoe County. (Assignment completed.)

5. Client: California Location Firm.
Location of Project: Washoe County.
Nature of Project: Requested Cost of Living Index for Reno, Nevada.
Action: Reno Cost of Living Index found and e-mailed to location firm. (Assignment completed.)

Location of Project: Fallon, Nevada.
Nature of Project: Requested presentation on Agritourism.
Action: A workshop is being set-up. (Assignment continues.)

7. Client: City of Sparks.
Location of Project: City of Sparks.
Nature of Project: Requested information on export impacts on City of Sparks.
Action: Completed export sales analysis on City of Sparks and sent to City of Sparks government. (Assignment completed.)

Location of Project: Lander County.
Nature of Project: Analysis of trends on development in Lander County.
Action: An analysis through time using GIS to show growth trends in Lander County. (Assignment continues.)
9. **Client:** University of Nevada, Las Vegas Contract’s Office.

**Location of Project:** Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties.

**Nature of Project:** Requested historical unemployment rate and per capita income data by county.

**Action:** County data collected and sent to University of Nevada, Las Vegas Contract’s Office. (Assignment completed.)

10. **Client:** Rural Entrepreneurship Group.

**Location of Project:** Nationwide.

**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to location of spatial cost of living index.

**Action:** Cost of Living Indices collected and sent to Rural Entrepreneurship Group. (Assignment completed.)

11. **Client:** NSB Public Finance.

**Location of Project:** Elko County.

**Nature of Project:** Requested information on trends of Elko County cattle industry.

**Action:** Cattle data collected and sent to NSB Public Finance. (Assignment completed.)

12. **Client:** Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce.

**Location of Project:** Reno-Sparks Area.

**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to national and state GDP and if county GDP available.

**Action:** Web source for national and state GDP sent as well as procedures to estimate county GDP from IMPLAN data. (Assignment completed.)

### F. Workshops and Seminars:

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

**Location of Workshop:** Fallon, Nevada.

**Nature of Workshop:** Made three presentations at the Nevada Rural Summit.

**Action:** The three presentations are listed below. (Assignment completed.)

   (a) Harris, Thomas R. “Socio-Economic Trends for Fiscal Analysis.”
   (b) Harris, Thomas R. “Health Sector Contributions to Rural Economy.”
   (c) Harris, Thomas R. “Social and Economic Data Analysis.”
G. **Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff**

1. **Client:** American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA).

**Location of Presentation:** Portland, Oregon.

**Nature of Presentation:** Presented a contributed paper at the annual AAEA meetings.

**Action:** Papers are listed below:

Harris, Thomas R. “Innovative Application of Rural Data through Extension Educational Programs.”

H. **Journal Articles and Fact Sheets**


