UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

University Center for Economic Development

Third 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 third quarter of FY 2002-2003. During the third quarter, the University Center produced six applied research projects, six other research projects, four technical and management assistance projects, nine counseling and referrals, four workshops, one professional meetings and no 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; Jake Burkey, 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 third 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. 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: 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.)

   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 survey results are being compiled into a publication for Battle Mountain and Lovelock, Nevada. A telephone survey of the local health sector is currently being developed for Yerington, Nevada. Also, an analysis of potential demand for OB/GYN in White Pine County is currently being developed. (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 Great Basin Area  
**Location of Project:** Counties within Western Nevada Development District are Carson City, Douglas, Storey, Mineral, Lyon, Pershing, and Churchill. Counties within the Great Basin Area are Elko, Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, and White Pine.

**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. One industrial targeting publication has been completed and listed below. Work is underway to complete an Urban Western Development District publication. (Assignment continues.)


5. Client: Churchill County Communications  
**Location of Project:** Churchill County  

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic impacts of Churchill County Communications on the Churchill County economy.

**Action:** Collection of data and model development has been initiated. (Assignment continues.)

6. 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. Initial data collection has been initiated in hopes that the grant will be funded.
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 journal article has been developed and accepted for publication. The reference is stated below. (Assignment completed.)


2. **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:** 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 the Virginia City Highlands, Moundhouse, and Virginia City to obtain preferences for tourism development in the Comstock Area. Workshop to be held later in Dayton. Formulated a strategic tourism plan for the Comstock Area. (Assignment continues.)

5. **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:** Obtain citizen preferences and feasibility study for a possible location of a national wild horse and burro adoption center. (Assignment continues.)
6. **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.)

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. Collection of EMS calls is currently underway. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** Red Lion Hotel  
**Location of Project:** Elko County, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Request to estimate economic and tax impacts of Red Lion flights to Elko.

**Action:** Analysis completed and sent to Red Lion Hotel. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Reno/Sparks Indian Colony  
**Location of Project:** Reno/Sparks, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of health needs by Reno/Sparks Tribe.

**Action:** Meeting with health director of Reno/Sparks Indian Colony to discuss development of a questionnaire. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** Western Nevada Community College  
**Location of Project:** Carson City, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Feasibility analysis of potential intercollegiate sports at Western Nevada Community College has been reviewed and a final draft is being typed.

**Action:** A final feasibility study has been drafted and will be sent to administrators at Western Nevada Community College. (Assignment continues.)
5. **Client:** GiliEdge Enterprises – Henri Vos  
**Location of Project:** Elko County, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested assistance with Casino Express Analysis done previously and technical assistance with his analysis of the total economic impact of the airport in Elko.

**Action:** Contacted Red Lion for release of figures and had a call with Mr. Vos to discuss the figures and his methodology. (Assignment completed.)

6. **Client:** Farm Service Agency  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Farmland Management Advisory Committee.

**Action:** Attended annual meeting to discuss farm real estate values and trends, decided values would remain constant for the next year. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** Nevada FFA Association  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested assistance to write standards for business management systems.

**Action:** Meeting with FFA Association and others to write standards for agricultural business management systems as related to Nevada FFA. (Assignment continues.)

8. **Client:** Nevada FFA Association  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Request to create and administer state farm business management test.

**Action:** Met with state FFA director and agreed to put the test together and administer in March. (Assignment continues.)

9. **Client:** University of Nevada, Reno – Office of Communications  
**Location of Project:** Reno, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested technical assistance in the development of a web-based survey.

**Action:** Provided technical assistance. (Assignment completed.)
E. Counseling and Referral:

1. Client: Rural Policy Research Institute  
Location of Project: North Dakota  

Nature of Project: Request of suggested procedures to analyze economic impacts of electric cooperatives on North Dakota’s economy.

Action: Provided suggested procedures to complete such a project. (Assignment completed.)

2. Client: Consulting Group in Sacramento, California  
Location of Project: Carson City and Douglas County  

Nature of Project: Request for sectoral multipliers for Carson City and Douglas County.

Action: Sectoral multipliers calculated and sent to Sacramento, California. (Assignment completed.)

3. Client: Las Vegas Consulting Company  
Location: Reno, Nevada  

Nature of Project: Request for copy of journal that estimated impacts of a new casino in Reno, Nevada.

Action: Journal article copied and sent to Las Vegas consulting company. (Assignment completed.)

4. Client: Pyramid Lake Tribal Office  
Location: Pyramid Lake  

Nature of Project: Request population data in the Pyramid Lake Area by Pyramid Lake Tribal Office.

Action: Population data compiled and sent. (Assignment completed.)

5. Client: San Francisco Consulting Firm  
Location: Reno, Nevada  

Nature of Project: Request information as to housing prices in Reno.

Action: Referred client to Bureau of Business and Economic Research, which has collected historical time series of home values in Reno. (Assignment completed.)
6. **Client:** CH2M Hill Consulting Firm  
**Location:** Walker River Basin  

**Nature of Project:** Request for journal abstracts of latest work using computable general equilibrium models.  

**Action:** Articles copied and sent. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** State of Nevada Legislative Council Bureau  
**Location:** Churchill County  

**Nature of Project:** Request copy of Frontier Treatment Center feasibility report.  

**Action:** Feasibility report sent to Legislative Council Bureau. (Assignment completed.)

8. **Client:** Reno Gazette-Journal Newspaper  
**Location:** Southern Lyon County  

**Nature of Project:** Requested copy of study showing economic impacts of onion industry on Southern Lyon County economy.  

**Action:** Report sent to Reno Gazette-Journal Newspaper. (Assignment completed.)

9. **Client:** Bootstraps, Inc. from Idaho  
**Location:** Gabbs, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Copies of health care sector questionnaire and analysis completed from previous studies.  

**Action:** Questionnaires and previous studies mailed. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Location of Workshop:** Moundhouse, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** To discuss and elicit opinions on tourism development in the Comstock Area.  

**Action:** Presentation made and consensus plan developed. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Location of Workshop:** Virginia City, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** To discuss and elicit opinions on tourism development in the Comstock Area.  

**Action:** Presentation made and consensus plan developed. (Assignment completed.)
3. **Location of Workshop:** Hawthorne, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** To discuss possible industrial targets for area airport and industrial park.  
**Action:** Presented suggestions as to possible industrial targets. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Location of Workshop:** Elko, Nevada  
**Nature of Seminar:** How to do a feasibility study of a business incubator.  
**Action:** Presented workshop in Elko, Nevada on how to do a feasibility study of a business incubator. (Assignment completed.)

G. **Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:**

1. **Location of Conference:** South Lake Tahoe, Nevada.  
**Nature of Conference:** Annual Meeting of the Nevada Association of Counties  
**Action:** Made presentation on socio-economic trends in the nation, state, and selected Nevada counties. Showed how trends could impact county economic development and fiscal balances. (Assignment completed.)

H. **Journal Articles and Fact Sheets**

1. **Published Journal Articles:**

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


