University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Third Quarter Report
For the Period
1 October 2005 to 31 December 2005
Prepared by

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Summary: In April 2000, the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno changed its funding cycle to begin on the month of April. Therefore, the quarterly reports after 2000 start in the month of April. The University Center for Economic Development continued to profile statewide and technical assistance on economic development for the third quarter of FY 2005-2006. During the third quarter, the University Center produced seven applied research projects, seven other research projects, six technical and management assistance projects, four counseling and referrals, two workshops, one technical presentation, and one cooperative extension fact sheet that is 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; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Associate; Shannon Price, 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. Two technical reports were published during the second quarter fiscal year 2005-2006 by the University Center. Two workshops were presented by the University Center for presentation of economic data and results of past projects. One international presentation was 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 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 2005 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 is being collected as to location of WICHE graduates in the state of Nevada and their professions. An economic impact analysis will be completed to estimate impacts of an area with and without a WICHE graduate in their locality. (Assignment Continues).
2. **Client:** Humboldt General Hospital  
**Location of Project:** Winnemucca, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested a feasibility study be completed to analyze proposed kidney dialysis suite.  
**Action:** Data to complete a feasibility analysis of a proposed kidney dialysis ward for Humboldt General Hospital is being collected. (Assignment Continues)

3. **Client:** Laughlin, Nevada, Bullhead City, Arizona, and areas surrounding these communities.  
**Location of Project:** Border Economy of Nevada and Arizona  
**Nature of Project:** Potential closure of Mohave Electric Generating Plant.  
**Action:** Development of an inter-regional input-output model of the Laughlin, Nevada; Bullhead City, Arizona, and Border Areas of Arizona on the potential economic impacts of the closure of the Mohave Electric Generating Plant. Also mitigation strategies will be developed in the study. (Assignment Continues).

4. **Client:** Bureau of Reclamation  
**Location of Project:** Truckee Meadows Area  
**Nature of Project:** To update the Truckee Meadows input-output model for the Bureau of Reclamation.  
**Action:** The Truckee Meadows input-output model for the Truckee Meadows Operating Agreement was updated, a user’s manual developed, and currently under review by the Bureau of Reclamation. (Assignment Continues).

5. **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 presented 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
Harris, Thomas R., J. Scott Shonkwiler, Laura Nalle, and Slavica Karastankovic. “Findings of Locational Determinants of Biotechnology Firms at the State Level”.

Additional analysis to estimate factors causing change in biotechnology firm numbers is being developed. (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 for a second year of funding by the Western Rural Development Center. (Assignment Continues)

7. **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 county level health care sector impacts. (Assignment Continues)

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. A research proposal was accepted for continued work through 2005 and 2006.

**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**: Nevada Wildland Seed Producers Association

**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Develop a web page for the Nevada Wild Land 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).

4. **Client**: Lincoln County Economic Development Authority

**Location of Project:** Lincoln and White Pine Counties of Nevada.

**Nature of Project:** Estimate potential industrial uses of pinyon-juniper chip industry in Lincoln County.

**Action:** Industrial energy demand has been forecasted for Lincoln and White Pine counties. Comparing forecasted energy demand to energy supplies would provide information as to potential energy supply by pinyon-juniper chips. Additional industrial uses of pinyon-juniper are currently being collected. (Assignment Continues).
D. **Technical and Management Assistance Projects:**

1. **Client:** Reno Downtown Redevelopment

   **Location of Project:** City of Reno

   **Nature of Project:** Assist the City of Reno in developing a strategic plan for Downtown Redevelopment.

   **Action:** Developing a strategic economic development program with officials of Reno Downtown Redevelopment (Assignment Continues).

2. **Client:** City of Yerington

   **Location of Project:** Yerington, Nevada

   **Nature of Project:** Assist the City of Yerington in developing a strategic plan for economic development in Yerington.

   **Action:** Developing a strategic planning economic development program with officials of the City of Yerington, Northern Nevada Development District, and Western Nevada Development District (Assignment Continues).
3. **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 a program this year to outline entrepreneurship extension materials for the internet. (Assignment Continues).

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

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

**Nature of Project:** To develop a successful Agricultural Innovative Center proposal.

**Action:** The University Center assisted the Dean’s office of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources in developing the proposal of a Regional Agricultural Innovative Center that has been accepted (Assignment Completed).

5. **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).
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).

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**  

1. **Client:** Electric Generation Business  

**Location of Project:** Gabbs, Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to community leaders and contacts in Gabbs, Nevada.  

**Action:** University Center after contacting the Gabbs Town Board sent information to the requested party. (Assignment Completed),
2. **Client:** State of Nevada Department of Agriculture  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to public land grazing given GAO proposal on grazing fee increases.  
**Action:** University Center is collecting past data and studies on grazing fees in rural Nevada. (Assignment Continues)

3. **Client:** State of Nevada Office Bureau of Land Management  
**Location of Project:** Carson City and Lyon County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested copy of University Center Technical Bulletin that completed a feasibility analysis of a proposed national wild horse and burro interpretative center.  
**Action:** Sent University Center Technical Bulletin on the feasibility analysis of a national wild horse and burro interpretations center to the State of Nevada BLM Office (Assignment Completed).

4. **Client:** Humboldt County  
**Location of Project:** Humboldt County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested analysis of feasibility of four ranches in Humboldt County.  
**Action:** Completed initial feasibility of four ranches in Humboldt County and sent them to Humboldt County (Assignment Completed).

5. **Client:** Fourth Ward School Historical Society in Virginia City, Nevada.  
**Location of Project:** Virginia City, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested copies of tourism strategy studies completed for Virginia City by the University Center.  
**Action:** Copies of University Technical Bulletins that related to the strategic tourism plan for Virginia City, Nevada were sent to the Fourth Ward School Historical Society.
6. **Client**: National Cattlemen’s Association  

**Location of Project**: Western United States  

**Nature of Project**: Requested information on potential impacts of proposed public land grazing buy-out.  

**Action**: Previous studies by the University Center on potential economic impacts of proposed buyouts of public land grazing rights on the rural Nevada economies were sent to the national association. (Assignment Completed).  

7. **Client**: Nevada National Guard  

**Location of Project**: State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project**: Requested output, household income, and employment multipliers for estimating total economic, household income, and employment impacts of activities of the Nevada National Guard on the state of Nevada economy.  

**Action**: Output, household income, and employment multipliers were estimated and sent to the state headquarters of the Nevada National Guard (Assignment Completed).  

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F. **Workshops and Seminars:**  

1. **Client**: Western University Centers  

**Location of Workshop**: Monterey, California  

**Nature of Workshop**: University Economic Development Association (UEDA) Annual Meetings  

**Action**: Attended two day workshop of the University Economic Development Association. First half-day was a special meeting of all University Centers followed by general UEDA meetings (Assignment Completed).
2. **Client:** Eureka County Commissioners  

**Location of Workshop:** Eureka, Nevada  

**Nature of Workshop:** Overview of customized Eureka County input-output model derived for the county.  

**Action:** Presentation made before the Eureka County Commissioners and public (Assignment Completed)

### G. Technical Presentations and Lectors by University Center Staff

1. **Client:** Regional Science International Association: National U.S.A. Meetings  

**Location of Presentations:** Las Vegas, Nevada  

**Nature of Presentations:** Three selected papers were presented at the international meetings.  

**Action:** Three papers presented are listed below:


   b) Thomas R. Harris and Simona Balazs. “An Application of Target MOTAD Procedures to Incorporate State Government Revenue Risks”.

   c) Alison Fara Davis and Thomas R. Harris. “Modeling Differences in Counts: An Application to Firm Location Decisions”.

### H. Journal Articles and Fact Sheets:

Harris, Thomas R., Robert Dick, and Joan Wright. “Incubators as a Potential Local Economic Development Tool”. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet. 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.


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 Applications to the City of Sparks: Executive Summary”, UCED 2005/06-06, September 2005.


PRICE, Shannon and Thomas R. Harris, and John Packham. Demand for Primary Care Physicians in Gabbs, Nevada”, UCED 2005/06-08, October 2005.