University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Fourth 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 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 fourth quarter of FY 2006-2007. During the fourth quarter, the University Center produced eight applied research projects, seven other research projects, ten technical and management assistance projects, five counseling and referrals, and five workshops.

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, Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Associate; Shannon Price, Research Associate; Joan Wright, Graduate Research Assistant; Billye French and Genet Sauer, Administrative Assistants; and 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:**

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. Two technical reports and three special extension publications were published during the fourth quarter fiscal year 2006-2007 by the University Center. Five workshops were presented 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](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 the 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 professions. A University Center Technical bulletin was completed and results will be presented to the Nevada Assembly. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Laughlin, Nevada & Bullhead City, Arizona

**Location of Project:** Colorado River Regional Economy

**Nature of Project:** 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.)

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. A Master’s Thesis was completed on this topic. A University Center Technical Bulletin and journal article are being developed.

(Assignment 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.)

5. **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. Publications developed are (Assignment continues):  


6. **Client:** Washoe County Government  

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

**Nature of Project:** Collect data and analyze data on costs of medical care for Washoe County Homeless. Part of a project titled “Examining the Cost-Effectiveness of Permanent Support Housing in Washoe County, Nevada.”  

**Action:** Collected and analyzed data and assisted in writing “Medical Costs and Service Providers” and “Mental Health Costs and Service Providers” sections of the Washoe County Homeless study. (Assignment completed.)
7. 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 being collected and analysis will be run. A proposal is also being developed for a housing analysis of Lander County. (Assignment continues.)


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 impacts and sent 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 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 proposals. Studies have been initiated. (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 accepted by Tahoe Forest Hospital. Data was collected in order to derive economic impacts of Truckee Forest Hospital on the Truckee Forest Hospital District. A University Center Technical Bulletin was completed and presentation of results was made to Tahoe Forest Hospital Board of Directors meeting. (Assignment completed.)


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: A research proposal was drafted and accepted by the University of Nevada Medical School. Data was collected and an impact analysis was completed. A University Center technical bulletin was completed. (Assignment completed.)


4. 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 potential closure of the Complex 2030 has been initiated. Program is starting with the administration of two questionnaires (employee and resident) in the next two months. (Assignment continues.)
5. Client: Lincoln County Commissioners

Location of Project: Lincoln County

Nature of Project: Requested information as to potential economic and fiscal impact of growth in Lincoln County. Additionally, the University Center assisted the town of Caliente with the entry and analysis of a community economic development questionnaire.

Action: Data is being collected for analysis of potential growth impacts. One hundred and thirty questionnaires were entered and summarized for the Caliente Community Economic Development plan update. Presented results to the city planning board. Publications are currently being prepared. Assignment continues.)

6. Client: Elko County Commissioners

Location of Project: Elko County

Nature of Project: Proposal drafted and accepted by Elko County commissioners to estimate the economic impacts of the mining industry on the Elko County economy. (Assignment continues.)

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: Washoe County Government

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).
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:** College of Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic impacts of the College of Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno on the Nevada economy.  
**Action:** A research proposal and agenda was drafted and sent to the College of Arts at the University of Nevada. Data is currently being collected to complete a statewide impact analysis of the College of Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno. (Assignment continues).
7. Client: Nevada Small Business Development Center

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Assist Nevada Small Business development Center with workshops and materials for the NxLevel Agricultural Marketing Course.

Action: Working with the Nevada Small Business Development Center, the University Center for Economic Development is developing workshop materials for the NxLevel Agricultural Marketing Class. (Assignment continues.)

8. 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.)

9. Client: new Frontiers Treatment Center

Location of Project: Fallon, Nevada

Nature of Project: A request for initial feasibility study to rebuild New Frontier Treatment Center that burned in March 2007.

Action: Data collection is being initiated to complete a feasibility analysis for a rebuilt New Frontier Treatment Center for funding by USDA-Rural Development. (Assignment continues.)

10. Client: Humboldt General Hospital

Location of Project: Winnemucca, Nevada

Nature of Project: A feasibility analysis of added long-term beds to Humboldt General Hospital.

Action: Initiated feasibility study of added long-term beds to Humboldt General Hospital. (Assignment continues.)
E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Nevada Rural Development Council  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Rural Nevada Summit  
   **Action:** On planning committee for Rural Nevada Summit. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** Nevada Small Business Development Center  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Assistance in development of questionnaire of NxLevel participants.  
   **Action:** Assisted in development of final questionnaire of NxLevel participants (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** State of Nevada Commission on Economic Development  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Information concerning Western Edge program by Western Rural Development Center.  
   **Action:** Information and contact concerning Western Edge sent to the office of State of Nevada Commission on Economic Development.

4. **Client:** New Frontier Treatment Center  
   **Location of Project:** Fallon, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Requested feasibility study for rebuilding New Frontier Treatment Center that burned in March 2007.  
   **Action:** To request for feasibility project and outlined procedures to complete a study. Proposal accepted by new Frontier Treatment Center. (Assignment completed.)
5. **Client:** Humboldt General Hospital

**Location of Project:** Winnemucca, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Request study on feasibility of adding long-term beds to the hospital.

**Action:** Initiated study to investigate feasibility of added long-term beds to Humboldt General Hospital. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** Western Governor’s Association

**Location of Workshop:** North Lake Tahoe, California

**Nature of Workshop:** Presented paper at the Western States Governor’s Biomass Industry meeting.

**Action:** Present paper on potential energy and biomass demand in the Truckee Meadows Area. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Lincoln County Commissioners

**Location of Workshop:** Pioche, Nevada

**Nature of Workshop:** Potential fiscal impacts of growth in Lincoln County.

**Action:** Made presentation of impacts of growth on Lincoln County budgets. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Town of Caliente, Nevada

**Location of Workshop:** Caliente, Nevada

**Nature of Workshop:** Discussion of fiscal impacts on town of Caliente, Nevada from potential growth in Lincoln County.

**Action:** Presentation made to Town Advisory Board. (Assignment completed.)
4. **Client:** Nevada and Western Economic Development Districts with Assistant Secretary Barah.

**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada

**Nature of Workshop:** Assistant Secretary’s presentation on new initiatives of EDA.

**Action:** Assistant Secretary Barah made presentations to persons attending meeting. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Tahoe Forest Hospital Governing Board

**Location of Workshop:** Truckee, California

**Nature of Workshop:** Presentation of findings of economic impacts of Tahoe Forest Hospital on the Tahoe Forest Hospital District economy. (Assignment completed.)


Extension Special Publications

1. Borden, Buddy, R. Grumbles and J. Lopez. “Fiscal Structures and Trends for Colorado River Communities including: Laughlin, NV, Bullhead City, AZ, Fort Mohave, AZ, Mohave Valley, AZ, Golden Valley, AZ, and Needles, CA.” Technical report summarizing historical fiscal trends in the Colorado River Region. This educational bulletin is being used by community leaders as a platform for developing and responding to policy issues. Special Publication 06-13 (49 pages).

2. Borden Buddy, R. Grumbles and J. Lopez. “Household Expenditure Survey Results for Colorado River Communities including: Laughlin, NV, Bullhead City, AZ, Fort Mohave, AZ, Mohave Valley, AZ, Golden Valley, AZ, and Needles, CA.” Technical report summarizing result from 807 focus group participants on household expenditure tendencies by different socioeconomic classifications. This educational bulletin provides local economic development organizations and policy decision makers’ baseline information used for economic development planning and strategic planning to reduce economic leakage. Special Publication 06-14 (36 pages).

Technical report describing input-output (I/O) economic impact modeling methodology applied to multi-state regional area. This educational bulletin provides policy decision makers with a layman