University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Fourth Quarter Report
For the Period
1 April to 30 June 2015

Prepared by
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for

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Summary: In June 2006, the 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. Also in 2011 because of fiscal crisis in the state of Nevada and the University of Nevada, Reno, the University Center was transferred from the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources to the School of Business. The University Center still is actively engaged and funded by the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station and the Nevada Cooperative Extension. The Center for Economic Development continued to profile statewide and technical assistance on economic development for the fourth quarter of FY 2014-2015. During the fourth quarter, the University Center produced eleven applied research projects, six other research projects, three technical and management assistance projects, nine counseling and referrals, one workshop, two technical presentations, seventeen University Center technical reports, two journal articles published, and two cooperative extension fact sheets 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, Professor in the Department of Economics, State Extension Specialist, and Director of the Center for Economic Development; Kimberly Rollins, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics; Frederick Steinmann, Assistant Research Professor in the College of Business; Malieka Landis, Research Analyst; Mike Helmar, Research Analyst; Brian Bonnenfant for the Center of Regional Studies for GIS work; Jeffery Stroup, Graduate Research Associate in the Department of Economics, Florina Salaghe, Graduate Research Associate in the Department of Economics, Cameron Belt, Graduate Research Associate in the Department of Economics, Sarah Honeycutt Graduate Research Associate in the Department of Economics; and George (Buddy) W. Borden, Community Development Specialist, who is affiliated with the University Center but is located at the Clark County Cooperative Extension Office in Las Vegas, and Marie Dennis, Office Manager.
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. Technical reports were published during the fourth quarter, fiscal year 2014/2015 by the University Center. One workshop, two technical reports, two journal articles, and two cooperative extension fact sheets under review were offered by the University Center to present economic data and results of past projects.

The University Center currently maintains a Facebook page the address is, https://www.facebook.com/pages/University-Center-for-Economic-Development-UNR/1421366588119408, and a Web page at this address, http://www.unr.edu/business/research-and-outreach/uced. From this Web page, a person is able to access and download past University Center technical reports, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension fact sheets relating to University Center projects, 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 from 1992 up to the current date are available to download in Adobe PDF format.

As part of the Center’s efforts to reach out to a broader audience, a Facebook page for the Nevada Leadership Institute was launched in October 2014. The address is https://www.facebook.com/NevadaLeadershipInstitute?ref=hl. From the Nevada Leadership Institute’s Facebook page, interested parties can get information on upcoming training workshops and professional development opportunities. A website for the Nevada Leadership Institute has also been developed and can be viewed at: http://www.unr.edu/business/research-and-outreach/nevada-leadership-institute. On the website, interested parties can get information on upcoming training workshops and professional development opportunities offered by the Nevada Leadership Institute. An "Archives & Resources” page on the Nevada Leadership Institute’s website also houses previous publications, links to partner organizations, and material for past workshops and conferences hosted by the Nevada Leadership Institute.

B. Applied Research:

1. Client: Western Rural Development Center
Location of Project: Western States of the Nation
Nature of Project: A National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant titled Area Sector Analysis Process (ASAP) submitted and accepted by the US Department of Agriculture.
Action: A second annual meeting of the ASAP group was held in Las Vegas, NV. A process team work book is being developed and applications of ASAP are being initiated in White Pine County, Nevada and Wayne County, Utah, as a possible third area, Grants, New Mexico. A user’s manual for ASAP is being developed. (Assignment continues.)
2. **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:** New economic impacts of the health care sector in all Nevada counties are being estimated. Also, a plan of work for fiscal year 2014/2015 has been developed. Initial data collection is being made to complete an economic impact of the insured Nevada Expansion. In addition, an in depth analysis of Humboldt General Hospital’s impact on Humboldt’s county economy is being done. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** Nevada Arid Research Institute  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** An initial analysis of trichomoniasis vaccine by Nevada ranchers has been initiated. Alternative trichomoniasis infection reduction management scenarios will be programmed into a whole-ranch simulation model.  
**Action:** Statistical procedures are being employed to estimate statistical significant factors for adoption of the trichomoniasis vaccine by Nevada ranchers. Reports on adoption rates are being developed. Also a session poster on the trichomoniasis vaccine research will be presented at the August 2015 American Agricultural Economic Association meeting. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** State of Nevada  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** An ImMache proposal was developed and accepted to analyze alternative hedging strategies for financial success by whole-dairy model. Model analyzed under influence of dry milk processing plant in Fallon, Nevada.  
**Action:** A proposal drafted and accepted for ImMache funding. Model development has been initiated. (Assignment continues.)

5. **Client:** University of Nevada NSF-EPSCoR group.  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** The development proposal for NSF-EPSCoR Energy Project has been accepted.  
**Action:** The proposal was accepted and second year of analysis has been initiated. (Assignment continues.)

6. **Client:** Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute  
**Location of Project:** U.S., Western U.S., and State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Completed work with the University of Missouri in developing agricultural market baseline outlooks for U.S., international, Western U.S. crops, and State of Nevada.  
**Action:** International crop baseline estimates have been completed and University Center publication developed. (Assignment completed.)

Helmar, Michael. *International Crop Baseline Updated: Summary Table.* University Center Technical Report, UCED 2014/15-03

7. **Client:** White Pine County  
**Location of Project:** White Pine County  
**Nature of Project:** White Pine County requested application for ASAP program.
**Action:** ASAP is currently being applied in White Pine County. Three meetings have been held and goal preferences are being estimated. (Assignment continues.)

**8: Client:** United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO)
**Location of Project:** Central Asia
**Nature of Project:** Work with UN FAO in developing models of the wheat sectors in Belarus, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
**Action:** Background information and supply, demand, and price data are being collected to support the modeling effort. Agricultural models will be developed and simulated to provide policy and economic analysis of the wheat markets in these Central Asian countries in the context of the global market. (Assignment continues.)

**9: Client:** Wayne County, Utah and a rural county in New Mexico.
**Location of Project:** Wayne County, Utah and a rural Grants County New Mexico.
**Nature of Project:** Wayne County, Utah has completed the third module of the ASAP Program, and Grants County in New Mexico has been started.
**Action:** An overview and user's manual for ASAP program is being developed. (Assignment continues.)

**10: Client:** Eureka County, Nevada
**Location of Project:** Eureka County, Nevada (Ruby Hill; Diamond Valley)
**Nature of Project:** Ongoing implementation of a three-year biochar field trial and demonstration project designed to test the application of biochar as a soil amendment in the rehabilitation of sterile soils (Ruby Hill) and in agricultural production (Diamond Valley).
**Action:** Amaron Energy completed a multi-day field trial of their recently completed large scale pyrolysis reactor and produced enough biochar to being wide scale application of biochar. UCED will complete an economic analysis of the biochar production to determine the economic feasibility of developing a biochar industry in Eureka County as part of the county's efforts to diversify its economy. (Assignment continues.)


**11: Client:** National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada
**Nature of Project:** Request to estimate the employment, economic activity, and household income impacts of expenditures made by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association on the state of Nevada.
**Action:** Data was collected and statewide impacts of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association on the state of Nevada was estimated. (Assignment continues.)

C. Other Research Projects

1. **Client:** Walker River Basin Study  
   **Location of Project:** Lyon and Mineral counties  
   **Nature of Project:** A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Mineral County and Lyon County communities for Smith Valley and Yerington was to be developed and published.  
   **Action:** A CEDS document for Mineral County and the Lyon County communities was developed and published. On April 17, 2015, UCED faculty hosted a day-long strategic planning session for elected and appointed officials for Lyon County, the City of Fernley, the City of Yerington, and other government entities in Lyon County in Silver Springs, NV as part of the Walker Basin Restoration Project Area CEDS. The results of this day-long strategic planning session were presented to the Lyon County Board of County Commissioners on June 4, 2015 in Yerington, NV. (Assignment completed.)


2. **Client:** Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitor Authority  
   **Location of Project:** Reno, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Conduct on-site surveys of special events to determine economic impacts to the Reno/Tahoe economy.  
   **Action:** On-site surveys completed for the 2014 Reno Rodeo, Artown, and Reno Air Races. Follow up surveys and economic impact analysis were estimated and publication completed. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Ft. McDermitt Native American Tribe  
   **Location of Project:** Ft. McDermitt reservation  
   **Nature of Project:** Request for proposal to assist tribe in development of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. (CEDS)  
   **Action:** A proposal was drafted and sent to tribal council. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** Eureka County, Nevada  
   **Location of Project:** Crescent Valley, Nevada and Beowawe, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Conduct a community assessment of needs in the northern portion of Eureka County including the town of Crescent Valley and the reservation of Beowawe.  
   **Action:** A 43 question resident survey was mailed to 315 addresses in northern Eureka County, Nevada. The survey contained 18 questions on demographic and employment background, seven questions on perceptions regarding the community and Eureka County, 10 questions regarding civic engagement, and eight questions regarding recycling. Completed surveys have been analyzed and a University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Special Publication is being developed that will summarize the results of this community assessment. Presentations by UCED faculty have been made to the Eureka County Board of County Commissioners, Eureka County Economic Development Program Board, the Crescent Valley Town Advisory Board, and
the Crescent Valley Community Development Implementation Plan Working Committee summarizing the results of the assessment. (Assignment continues.)


5. Client: Nevada Association of Conservation Districts; Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Location of Project: Reno, Nevada  
Nature of Project: Develop, implement, and administer a series of one-day training workshops focusing on the administration of conservation districts in Nevada.  
Action: As part of the Nevada Leadership Institute, UCED faculty are working with the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts and Nevada Department of Conservation to develop, implement, and administer four one-day workshops designed to provide technical assistance on Nevada’s conservation law, open meeting laws, code of administration ethics, and other aspects of the administration of local government to conservation district board members in Nevada. The first one-day workshop will be held on November 14, 2014 as part of the Nevada Association of Conservation District’s Annual Meeting in Fallon, Nevada. (Assignment continues.)


6. Client: Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association; State Land Use Planning Advisory Committee (Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources)  
Location of Project: Reno, Nevada  
Nature of Project: Assist in the revision and writing of a new planning handbook.  
Action: As part of the Nevada Leadership Institute, UCED faculty are working with the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association and the State Land Use Planning Advisory Committee to revise previous planning handbooks designed for planning commissioners and other planning professionals in Nevada. (Assignment continues.)
D. Technical and Management Assistance Projects:

1. **Client:** Nevada Cooperative Extension  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Cooperative Extension fact sheets published and under review.  
   **Action:** Below are the Cooperative Extension fact sheets published and under review for this fiscal year. (Assignment continues.)  

2. **Client:** Laughlin Chamber of Commerce  
   **Location of Project:** Laughlin, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Small Business Training Program  
   **Action:** Developed small business training needs questionnaire that was administered to 250 small businesses in the Colorado River Region. Results from the survey were used to develop a monthly small business training program to begin early in the fall of 2015. (Assignment continues).

3. **Client:** Laughlin High School, Local Businesses  
   **Location of Project:** Laughlin, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** High School Student Summer Internship Program  
   **Action:** Working with local businesses a summer internship program was developed and launched in 2015. High school students applied for these summer internship jobs by meeting certain criteria. Students then attended a mandatory workshop on resume development, interviewing skills, and general workplace life skills. Participating businesses then would offer summer employment. Employment will be monitored throughout the summer. Final presentation and report will be prepared by students at the conclusion. (Assignment continues).

E. Counseling and Referrals:

1. **Client:** Client: Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension  
   **Location of Project:** State of Mississippi  
   **Nature of Project:** Review extension publication on economic impacts of diabetes in the state of Mississippi.  
   **Action:** Extension publication reviewed and sent back to Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** EDA Seattle Regional Office  
   **Location of Project:** Western United States
**Nature of Project:** Shared information on University of Nevada Cooperative Extension materials on Native American programs on agri-business and business programs.

**Action:** Native American materials sent to EDA-Seattle Regional Office. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Office of the President of the University of Nevada Reno.

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimated economic impacts of the University of Nevada, Reno on the economy of the State of Nevada.

**Action:** Completed study and memorandum sent to the President’s Office of the University of Nevada, Reno. (Assignment completed)

4. **Client:** Nevada Industry Excellence

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimate economic impacts of Nevada Industry Excellence (MEP Program) on Nevada’s Economy.

**Action:** Economic impacts estimated and final report being drafted. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) at the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Review economic procedures employed by the Sage Grouse designation study.

**Action:** Memorandum of review sent to UNR Dean of CABNR. (Assignment completed.)

6. **Client:** Renown Hospital

**Location of Project:** Washoe County, Nevada (Reno, NV)

**Nature of Project:** Requested economic, employment, and labor income multipliers for the Hospital Sector in Washoe County.

**Action:** A memorandum developed which estimated and reviewed the Hospital Sector output, employment, and labor income multipliers for Renown Hospital. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** Lincoln County Nevada.

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

**Nature of Project:** Collect data to develop stochastic financial simulation model for Southern Nevada.

**Action:** Financial data collected and stochastic financial simulation for range cattle operation in Southern Nevada being developed. (Assignment completed.)
8. **Client:** Churchill County Economic Development Authority  
**Location of Project:** Churchill County  
**Nature of Project:** Estimated economic impacts of recently cloned commercial sector business on the Churchill County economy.  
**Action:** Nine memorandums developed and sent to Churchill County Economic Development Authority. (Assignment completed.)

9. **Client:** Great Basin College  
**Location of Project:** Nevada counties covered by Great Basin College.  
**Nature of Project:** Socio-economic statistics of counties covered by Great Basin College.  
**Action:** Socio-economic data collected and sent to Great Basin College. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** Cheri Hill Radio Show  
**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Workshop:** Interviewed about the Stronger Economics Together Workshop in Reno, Nevada.  
**Action:** Radio interview completed. (Assignment completed)

2. **Client:** RMA Dairy Workshop  
**Location of Workshop:** Fallon, Nevada  
**Nature of Workshop:** Farm Bill Update, effects on the Nevada dairy industry, dairy nutrition and economics.  
**Action:** Workshop completed. (Assignment completed)

3. **Client:** Western Nevada Development District  
**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Workshop:** 2015 Nevada Economic Development Conference.  
**Action:** Conference completed. (Assignment completed)

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

1. **Client:** Nevada Leadership Institution  
**Location of Presentation:** Reno, Nevada
Nature of Presentation: Discussion of socio-economic data analysis for economic development.

Action: Presentation made at Nevada Leadership Institution for Fundamentals of Economic Development. (Assignment completed.)

2. Client: Nevada Stronger Economics Together
Location of Presentation: Reno, Nevada
Nature of Presentation: Speaker at The Regions Economy- Past, Present and Future session.
Action: Presentation made at session. (Assignment completed.)

H. Journal Articles and Publications for Fiscal Year 2014/15:

Journal Articles


University Center Technical Reports for Fiscal Year 2014/15:


**University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet for Fiscal Year 2014/15:**
