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 third quarter of FY 2015-2016. During the third quarter, the University Center produced ten applied research projects, ten other research projects, four technical and management assistance projects, five counseling and referrals, one workshop, one technical presentation, seven University Center technical reports, one journal article that is revised and resubmitted, and one journal article accepted.

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; Fred 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, Ethan Grumstrup, 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 third quarter, fiscal year 2015/2016 by the University Center. One workshop, one technical presentation, three technical reports, one journal article revised and resubmitted, and one journal article accepted. 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 Program was launched in October 2014. The address is https://www.facebook.com/NevadaLeadershipInstitute?ref=hl. From the Nevada Leadership Program’s Facebook page, interested parties can get information on upcoming training workshops and professional development opportunities offered by the Nevada Leadership Program. An “Archives & Resources” page on the Nevada Leadership Program’s website also houses previous publications, links to partner organizations, and material for past workshops and conferences hosted by the Nevada Leadership Program.

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: An ASAP workbook is being developed by the ASAP team. ASAP applications are in Wayne County, Utah, Grand County, Utah, and Grants New Mexico. An ASAP manual 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:** An economic impact analysis of the Sierra Nevada Hospital on the Nevada County economic was completed. Additional studies are currently underway. (Assignment continues.)  

Harris, Thomas R. “The Economic Impacts of Sierra Nevada Hospital on the Nevada County Economy” UCED 2015/16-14, January 2016

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. A professional paper was submitted to and accepted to the Western Social Science Association. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** University of Nevada NSF-EPSCoR group.  

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** The development proposal for NSF-EPSCoR Solar Nexus Project has been accepted and research has been initiated.  

**Action:** The proposal was accepted and third year of a five year project is underway. (Assignment continues.)

5. **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:** Preliminary international crop baseline estimates have been completed and University Center publication developed. Results were presented at the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. in December, 2015 (Assignment completed.)


6: **Client:** United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN FAO)

**Location of Project:** Kazakhstan

**Nature of Project:** Work with UN FAO in developing models of the agricultural sectors in Kazakhstan.

**Action:** Developed prototype wheat, barley, and sunflower complex model for Kazakhstan. The model was demonstrated in presentations to several groups in Astana: the farmers Union, the Chief Scientist at the Kazakh Research Institute for Grain Farming, the Strategic Planning Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Economic Institute, and the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs. In Almaty, the agricultural sector model was presented to two groups who were the Kazakh Research Institute for Economy of the Agro Industrial Complex and Development of Rural Territories and the Almaty Oblast at the soil testing station. Agricultural models will be developed and simulated to provide policy and economic analysis of the agricultural markets in Kazakhstan in the context of the global market.

(Assignment continues.)

7: **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 bring 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. Faculty from the Desert Research Institute were
invited to participate to complete an energy mass balance analysis for the biochar, bio-oil and biogas being produced as part of this project as well as a series of grow studies in DRI’s patented EcoCELL facility using biochar, soil, and seed mixes from Diamond Valley in Eureka County. (Assignment continues.)


8: Client: State of Nevada

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Investigate growth pattern of entrepreneurship through last two recessions and expansions.

Action: Dynamic shift-share analysis completed and University Center Technical Bulletin is being developed. (Assignment continues.)

9: Client: Storey County

Location of Project: Mark Twain, Nevada

Nature of Project: Calculation of income survey for USDA-Rural Development grant.

Action: Household questionnaires being collected. Input and calculation of household questionnaires was initiated in October 2015. Results compiled and initial report was developed and sent to Storey Count, Nevada officials. (Assignment completed.)
10. **Client:** Sempra Corporation

  **Location of Project:** State of Nevada

  **Nature of Project:** Estimate economic, employment, and household income impacts of solar developments by Sempra Corporation in the state of Nevada.

  **Action:** Developed proposal and accepted by Sempra Corporation. An initial meeting is being set up to initiate research activities. (Assignment continues).

C. **Other Research Projects**

1. **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.)

2. **Client:** City of Fernley

  **Location of Project:** City of Fernley

  **Nature of Project:** The City of Fernley has contracted with the University Center for Economic Development to complete a preliminary financial and economic redevelopment feasibility study for a portion of the City of Fernley that the City is considering including into a new proposed redevelopment project area as defined by Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 279. The financial and economic feasibility study includes an assessment of current ad valorem and total assessed value trends for the City, the proposed redevelopment project area, and each of the proposed subareas with an assessment of future possible ad valorem revenues that a redevelopment district could potentially collect.

  **Action:** A UCED technical report has been completed outlining the results of the preliminary financial and economic redevelopment feasibility study. A presentation of the results will be made to the City Council of the City of Fernley in early 2016. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** City of Fernley  

**Location of Project:** City of Fernley  

**Nature of Project:** The City of Fernley has contracted with the University Center for Economic Development to complete a strategic and communications plan for the City of Fernley for the FY 2017 to FY 2021 planning horizon. The strategic and communications plan consists of developing a new set of core values, strategic mission, strategic vision, objectives, strategies and implementation measures for the organization as the City continues to deal with new growth pressures.

**Action:** A series of community workshops will be held to solicit input from the community on various aspects of the strategic and communications plan. The first community workshop was held in Fernley, Nevada on Saturday, November 7, 2015 and the second community workshop is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2016. One UCED technical report, summarizing the results of the first community workshop, has already been completed and submitted to the City of Fernley. (Assignment continues.)

Steinmann, Frederick. “A Strategic Plan for the City of Fernley for FY 2017 through FY 2021: Summary Results of Community Workshop No. 1 held Saturday, November 7, 2015”. UCED 2015/16-12, December 2015.

4. **Client:** Lander County  

**Location of Project:** Lander County  

**Nature of Project:** Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

**Action:** UCED faculty completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lander County in 2014. UCED faculty continue to help the County in implementing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and complete the annual update and revision. The last revision and review of the current 2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was completed in April 2015 and the second annual revision and review will be completed in April 2016. (Assignment continues)

5. **Client:** Lander County  

**Location of Project:** Lander County  

**Nature of Project:** A Community Branding Study for the Communities of Austin and Kingston in Lander County.

**Action:** As part of the 2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lander County, UCED faculty have recently completed a community branding study for the communities of Austin, Nevada and Kingston, Nevada located in southern Lander County. A
community survey was sent to all residents in Austin and Kingston and two separate community workshops were held in both communities to review and discuss the results of the survey. A UCED technical report has been completed summarizing the results of the survey and community workshops. The results of the study will also be presented to the Lander Economic Development Authority in early 2016. (Assignment continues)


6. Client: Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Estimating budgets for different range livestock operations in the state of Nevada.

Action: Production and cost information being collected to develop Nevada range livestock budget. (Assignment continues)

7. Client: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (CFA, Inc.)

Location of Project: Washoe County

Nature of Project: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful has contracted with CFA, Inc. to complete a master plan for an 18 mile stretch of the Truckee River that runs from unincorporated Washoe County, through the City of Reno, through the City of Sparks, and back into unincorporated Washoe County. UCED has been subcontracted by CFA, Inc. to complete the Social Issues and Funding Issues component of the One Truckee River Management Plan that, when completed, will be submitted to Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks for their receipt and adoption.

Action: Two community workshops, one for Social Issues and one for Fiscal Issues, have been completed. Research continues on policy matters pertaining to the Social Issues group and funding needs of the management plan. (Assignment continues).

8. Client: Office of the Chief Economist- USDA

Location of Project: Washington, D.C., Michigan State University, and Reno, Nevada

Nature of Project: Collaborative effort with the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, Michigan State, and the Office of the Chief Economist- USDA estimating structural model of European Union ethanol and biodiesel market analysis of effectiveness and need for tariff and anti-dumping duties applied to these fuels.
**Action:** Price, supply/demand, and tariff/duty data has been collected and framework for model has been established. (Assignment continues).

**9. Client:** Colorado River Regional Economy

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

**Nature of Project:** Estimate economic impacts of sports tournaments on the Colorado River Regional Economy.

**Action:** Economic impacts estimated and report written. (Assignment completed)

  Borden, Buddy “Assessment and Economic Impacts of Sports Tournaments on Colorado River Regional Economy” UCED 2015/16-13, January 2016

**10. Client:** Nevada County, California

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

**Nature of Project:** Estimate the economic, employment, and household income impacts of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital on the economy of Nevada County, California.

**Action:** Economic impacts estimated and University Center Technical Bulletin published. (Assignment completed)

  Harris, Thomas R. “The Economic Impacts of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital on the Nevada County Economy”. UCED 2015/16-14, January 2016

**D. Technical and Management Assistance Projects:**

1. **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 began in the fall of 2015. (Assignment continues).

2. **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).

3. Client: US Economic Development Administration

Location of Project: US EDA Region III Idaho

Nature of Project: Review of US EDA Region III Idaho Development District and develop recommendations for new administrative and organizational structure.

Action: Proposal developed and accepted by EDA-Seattle. Work on project has been initiated. UCED faculty will be meeting with various elected and appointed officials, government executives, community leaders, planners, and economic development professionals in the US EDA Region III area in early 2016. (Assignment continues).

4. Client: University Center for Economic Development

Location of Project: Metropolitan Areas of the U.S.

Nature of Project: Develop economic activity index for metropolitan counties in the U.S.

Action: Statistical procedures are being applied to develop an economic activity index for U.S. metropolitan counties. (Assignment continues).

E. Counseling and Referrals:

1. Client: Lincoln County Cooperative Extension

Location of Project: Lincoln County

Nature of Project: Development of social media for agricultural producers in Lincoln County.

Action: A Spring Semester Project was developed to address the social media question. (Assignment continues.)
2. **Client:** Utah State University  
**Location of Project:** Clark County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested economic, employment and household income multipliers for Clark County Economy.  
**Action:** Multipliers estimated and sent to Utah State University. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Washoe County Cooperative Extension  
**Location of Project:** Specific zip codes.  
**Nature of Project:** Requested Tapestry indicators for zip codes in Washoe County.  
**Action:** Used EMSI data to derive tapestry indicators for zip codes and sent to Washoe County Cooperative Extension. (Assignment continues)

4. **Client:** Lincoln County Cooperative Extension  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested agricultural impact and export data for the State of Nevada.  
**Action:** Data collected and sent to Lincoln County Cooperative Extension. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** University of Wisconsin, Madison  
**Location of Project:** National Publication  
**Nature of Project:** Requested publication that estimates multi regional input-output models.  
**Action:** Publication found and sent to the University of Wisconsin, Madison. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
**Location of Workshop:** Compressed video state wide.

Action: Presentation on economic impacts in Elko County economy from changes in public land grazing permits. (Assignment completed)

G. Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:

H. Journal Articles and Publications for Fiscal Year 2015/16:

**Journal Articles**


University Center Technical Reports for Fiscal Year 2015/16:


Steinmann, Frederick. “A Strategic Plan for the City of Fernley for FY 2017 through FY 2021: Summary Results of Community Workshop No. 1 held Saturday, November 7, 2015”. UCED 2015/16-12, December 2015.

Harris, Thomas R. “The Economic Impacts of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital on the Nevada County Economy”. UCED 2015/16-14, January 2016


University of Nevada, Reno Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet for Fiscal Year 2015/16:

Harris, Thomas R. “The Economic Impacts of Sierra Nevada Hospital on the Nevada County Economy” UCED 2015/16-14, January 2016

Harris, Thomas R. “The Projected Economic Impacts of Construction and Operation Activities of the Kings Valley Lithium Project in Humboldt County” UCED 2015/16-14, January 2016

Borden, Buddy “Assessment and Economic Impacts of Sports Tournaments on Colorado River Regional Economy” UCED 2015/16-13, January 2016