University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Third Quarter Report
For the Period
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Prepared by
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1 October to 31 December 2012

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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 Third quarter of FY 2012-2013. During the second quarter, the University Center produced nine applied research projects, five other research projects, two technical and management assistance projects, eight counseling and referrals, two workshops, one technical presentation, and one University Center technical reports.

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; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Analyst; Margaret Cowee, Research Analyst; Malieka Landis, Research Analyst; Mike Helmar, Research Analyst; Brian Bonnenfant for the Center of Regional Studies for GIS work; Eugenia Larmore, Graduate Research Associate in the Department of Economics; Jeffery Stroup, 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. Three technical reports were published during the third quarter, fiscal year 2012/2013 by the University Center. One workshop and one technical presentation and lecture were offered by the University Center to present economic data and results of past projects.

The University Center currently maintains a Web page. The address is http://www.ag.unr.edu/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.

B. Applied Research:

1. Client: Western Rural Development Center
   Location of Project: Western States of the Nation
   Nature of Project: Western States of Nevada, Montana, Arizona, Utah and Hawai'i are developing a model to match businesses with community economic development preferences.
   Action: Asset Sector Activity Process (ASAP) model has been developed and applied in Anaconda, Montana; Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona, and Lander County, Nevada. A users’ manual is currently being developed as well as a train-the-trainer seminar will be presented in April sponsored by the Western Rural Development Center. (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.
   Action: New economic impacts of the healthcare sector in all Nevada counties are being re-estimated. A Web page has been developed for the University Center website that shows the economic impacts of Nevada’s hospitals and healthcare sector on Nevada regions and counties. (Assignment continues)

3. Client: U.S. Agricultural Research Service
   Location of Project: Nevada and Utah
Nature of Project: Developed and submitted a research proposal for funding to estimate feasibility of Pinyon-Juniper harvesting for bio fuels.

Action: A multi-state proposal was developed and sent to U.S. Agricultural Research Service. (Assignment continues.)

4. Client: Nevada Arid Research Institute

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Estimation on economic impacts of public land ranchers adopting new disease control technologies and determining factors why or why not ranchers adopt these technologies.

Action: A Nevada Arid Rangeland Initiative proposal was written and accepted. A test rancher questionnaire was tested and approved. Questionnaires were sent to Nevada ranchers and completed questionnaires have been coded for the computer. Initial analysis of questionnaire data is underway. (Assignment Completed)

5. Client: State of Nevada

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Investigate economic impacts of Nevada's dairy industry and potential economic linkages including a dry milk processing plant that will locate in Churchill County. Impacts are currently being estimated. A workshop was held in Fallon to discuss Nevada dairy issues. Workshops are scheduled for Eureka, Nevada and Lovelock Nevada.

Action: A value added supply chain analysis has been initiated to estimate potential economic development opportunities and bottlenecks for the new dry milk processing plant. (Assignment continues.)

6: Client: Clark County, Nevada

Location of Project: Clark County (Las Vegas)

Nature of Project: Clark County, through a grant from EDA, solicited proposals to develop and deliver a Small Business procurement training and workforce development program for small businesses operating in Clark County. A partnership of private, non-profit and public institutions developed a comprehensive training program. This partnership is called “Strategic Alliance for Emerging Small Businesses” and includes: Nevada Cooperative Extension, Nevada Small Business Development Center, Akers & Associates, Hart Communications, and Future for an Independent Tomorrow.

Action: Recently the final grant award was signed in early July 2012 and the first set of classes began on August 9, 2012. This will be the first of four program cycles to be offered over the next 24 months in Clark County. The team is currently qualifying Small Businesses to be placed in one of the four class cycles. The goal is to train 200 small businesses over the next 24 months. (Assignment continues)

7: Client: University of Nevada School of Medicine

Location of Project: State of Nevada
**Nature of Project:** Collection and analysis of socio-economic data of Nevada’s elderly population. Also socio-economic data was collected on Nevada veterans. In addition, initiated data collection to estimate economic impacts of a physician office and the University of Nevada School of Medicine on the Nevada economy.

**Action:** The Nevada elderly and Nevada veteran socio-economic data was collected and is currently being analyzed for publications. Data analysis for office of physician and University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine economic impacts have been initiated. (Assignment continues)

8: **Client:** University of Nevada NSF-EPSCoR group.
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Development and refining proposal for NSF-EPSCoR Energy Project.
**Action:** NSF-EPSCoR proposal on energy was developed and submitted for potential funding. (Assignment continues)

9: **Client:** Nevada State Office of Energy
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Request to develop a State of Nevada Compatible Equilibrium model to analyze economic impacts of energy efficiency and alternative energy programs.
**Action:** A proposal was developed and accepted. CGE model development has been initiated. (Assignment continues)

C. **Other Research Projects**

1: **Client:** Lander County Economic Development Authority
**Location of Project:** Lander County

**Nature of Project:** Requested to develop a proposal for the potential development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lander County.
**Action:** A proposal was developed and sent to Lander County Economic Development Authority. (Assignment continues)

2. **Client:** Walker River Basin Study
**Location of Project:** Lyon and Mineral counties

**Nature of Project:** A cluster economic analysis has been completed for Lyon and Mineral counties.
**Action:** Cluster publications and a socio-economic trend analysis have been completed for Mineral County, Yerington zip code area, and Smith Valley zip code area. (Assignment Completed)


3. Client: Rural Nevada
Location of Project: Rural Nevada
Nature of Project: Develop research project to estimate potential of hoop houses for rural Nevada.
Action: A research project proposal has been developed. (Assignment continues.)

4. Client: Western Nevada Development District
Location of Project: Western Nevada Development District
Nature of Project: Initiated and presented three modules of the Stronger Economies Together Program.
Action: Modules 7 through 9 of the SET program were presented. A final document is currently being developed. (Assignment continues.)

5. Client: SRI International
Location of Project: University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno
Nature of Project: SRI International completing a “best practices” study of EDA University Centers.
Action: Worked with SRI personnel in their data gathering of practices by the UNR University Center. (Assignment completed.)

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:** State of Nevada  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Requested by the State of Nevada Governor’s Office on Economic Development to estimate leverage and potential economic impacts of $13.88 million dollar State Small Business Credit Initiative of US Department of Treasury.  
   **Action:** Analysis was completed and submitted for funding by the US Department of Treasury. (Assignment completed)

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Lander County Economic Development Authority  
   **Location of Project:** Lander County  
   **Nature of Project:** Request of economic sectors that use roll copper as input.  
   **Action:** A list of potential economic sectors that could use roll copper given to Lander County Economic Development Authority from program output by NV250. (Assignment completed)

2. **Client:** Humboldt County Commissioners  
   **Location of Project:** Humboldt County  
   **Nature of Project:** Request information of potential economic impacts of reduced grazing permits due to rangeland fires.  
   **Action:** Impacts estimated and sent to Humboldt County Commissioners. (Assignment completed)

3. **Client:** Lincoln County  
   **Location of Project:** Caliente, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Requested assistance for setting up 501-C3 organization.  
   **Action:** Faculty found to assist Lincoln Counts. (Assignment completed)

4. **Client:** State of Nevada Governor’s Sage Grouse Ecosystem Council  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Requested information on procedures required to estimate economic impacts of Sage Grouse endangered species designation.  
   **Action:** Completed a memorandum to Sage Grouse Commission as to procedures that could be used to estimate regional impacts of Sage Grouse endangered species designation. (Assignment completed)

5. **Client:** Georgia State University  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Requested health information for estimation of impacts of earthquakes.
Action: Data collected and sent to Georgia State University. (Assignment completed)

6. Client: Mississippi State University
Location of Project: State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Collected past economic impact studies of casinos in the state of Nevada.
Action: Past studies sent to Mississippi State University. (Assignment completed)

7. Client: USDA Rural Development State of Nevada Office
Location of Project: State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Requested past studies which estimated economic impacts of local health care sector on Nevada counties.
Action: Studies collected and sent to State of Nevada Office of USDA-Rural Development.
(Assignment completed)

8. Client: State of Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development
Location of Project: State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Requested past University Center studies that estimated biotechnology industry in Nevada.
Action: Studies collected and sent to the Governor’s Office of Economic Development.
(Assignment completed)

F. Workshops and Seminars:

1. Client: Nevada Agricultural Sector
Location of Workshop: Fallon, Nevada
Nature of Workshop: Impact of Future Growth in Nevada Dairies
Action: An outreach workshop was held at the Churchill County Extension Office with 28 attendees to listen to presentations of potential impacts to Churchill County dairy sector and economy from the construction and operation of the new dry milk processing plant.
(Assignment completed)

2. Client: Nevada Assembly
Location of Presentation: Carson City, Nevada
Nature of Presentation: Presentation of study of impacts of public land grazing on Nevada economics.
Action: Presentation made during Agricultural Day at Nevada Assembly. (Assignment completed)
G. Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:

1. Client: Western Regional Science Association

Location of Presentation: Santa Barbara, California

Nature of Presentation: Presented selected paper and discussant for another paper at the Western Regional Science Association Meetings.

Action: Presented paper below:


Discussant for the paper below:

Kennelly, Ryan. New Economic Indexes for Las Vegas, Nevada.

(Assignment completed)

H. Journal Articles and Publications for Fiscal Year 2012/13:

Man-Keun, Kim; Zhu, Erqian Julia; Harris, Thomas R.; and Jonathan E. Alvey. “Developing LP-SAM to Examine Regional Economic Impact: Application of Investigating Regional Economic Impacts from Wildfires”, Revised and Resubmitted to The Review of Regional Studies.

University Center Technical Reports for Fiscal Year 2012/13:


University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets and Special Publications for Fiscal Year 2010/11: