University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Fourth Quarter Report  
For the Period  
1 April to 30 June 2013

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 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. Technical reports were published during the third quarter, fiscal year 2012/2013 by the University Center. Two workshops and two 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 has been developed and a train-the-trainer workshop was held in April in Las Vegas. (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 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. Two workshops were held during the quarter in Eureka 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. Two workshops presented. (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 offices 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 has 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. The proposal was accepted and the initial meeting is in August at UNLV. (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 General Equilibrium (CGE)) 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. Proposal was accepted and the initial CED meeting in Lander County during this quarter. (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:** 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 best practices by the UNR University Center. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Nevada State Office of Energy

**Location of Project:** Clark and Washoe Counties of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimate factors that increase and inhibit adoption of solar power by residential and commercial property owners in Clark and Washoe Counties.

**Action:** Design and implement surveys in Washoe and Clark counties. Analyzed results and submitted report to Nevada State Office of Energy. (Assignment completed.)

6. **Client:** The Food bank of Northern Nevada and Washoe County School District  

**Location of Project:** Clark and Washoe Counties  

**Nature of Projects:** Conduct interviews with a sample population of Great Basin agricultural Producers to define logistical issues and feasibility of providing local produce for a children’s summer meals program during the summer of 2013.  

**Action:** Interview format designed and portion of population interviewed. Once all interviews have been completed a summary report will be prepared for Washoe County School District which will plan and implement the summer meals program. (Assignment continues).

7. **Client:** Rural Nevada  

**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Develop research project to assess the potential for and provide technical assistance and education on meat marketing cooperatives including meat CSAs and meat buying clubs.  

**Action:** A research project proposal has been developed. (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:** 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)

3. **Client:** State of Nevada Governor’s Office on Economic Development (GOED)  

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Develop Excel spreadsheets to compare location advantages and disadvantages for different economic sectors in the state of Nevada, California, Utah, and Arizona.
Action: Draft spread sheets developed and under review by GOED. (Assignment continues)

4. Client: State of Nevada Governor’s Office on Economic Development (GOED)
Location of Project: State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Develop Excel spreadsheets to estimate costs and returns of alternative location incentives for different economic sectors.
Action: Draft spread sheets developed and under review by GOED. (Assignment continues)

5. Client: State of Nevada Governor’s Office on Economic Development (GOED)
Location of Project: Four Nevada economic regions as designated by GOED
Nature of Project: Development of socio-economic trends analysis and publication for the four GOED economic development regions.
Action: Socio-economic data for the four GOED economic development regions is being collected for analysis (Assignment continues)

E. Counseling and Referrals:

1. Client: State of Nevada Governor’s Office on Economic Development (GOED)
Location of Project: State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Requested additional information as to input substitution
Action: Input substitution possibilities for agriculture were sent to GOED. (Assignment completed)

2. Client: Western Nevada Development District (WNDD)
Location of Project: State of Nevada
Nature of Project: Collected and analyzed State of Nevada manufacturing data trends and sent analysis to WNDD to be incorporated in proposals.
Action: Analysis sent to WNDD and analysis incorporated in “Make It in America” grant. (Assignment completed)

3. Client: Humboldt County Commissioners
Location of Project: Humboldt County
Nature of Project: Requested information as to potential impacts of decreases in public grazing due to drought and rangeland fires.
Action: Humboldt County impacts were derived from public land grazing decline and sent to Count Commissioner. (Assignment completed)

4. Client: USDA-Rural Development Nevada State Office
Location of Project: WNDD Area
**Nature of Project:** Requested list of Manufacturing Sector development goals from the Stronger Economics Together (SET) Program.

**Action:** SET Manufacturing Sector goals found and sent to USDA-Rural Development. (Assignment completed)

5. **Client:** University of Wyoming

**Location of Project:** State of Wyoming

**Nature of Project:** Requested copies of previous studies on economic impacts of University of Nevada, Reno on states economy. Procedures to conduct university impact studies included with previous studies.

**Action:** Previous University of Nevada, Reno economic impact studies were located and sent to the University of Wyoming. (Assignment completed)

6. **Client:** Duckwater Paiute Tribe

**Location of Project:** Duckwater Paiute Tribe Reservation

**Nature of Project:** Estimated economic impacts of operations of the Duckwater Paiute Tribe on White Pine County economy.

**Action:** Economic, employment, and household income impacts estimated and results presented at a workshop. (Assignment completed)

7. **Client:** University of Nevada, Reno’s Presidents Office

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Information on differential growth rates of similar size metropolitan communities like Reno.

**Action:** A report from the Up John Institute comparing economic growth rates and causes for moderate size metropolitan communities located and sent to the President’s Office. (Assignment completed)

8. **Client:** Lincoln County Commissioners

**Location of Project:** Lincoln County

**Nature of Project:** Requested information on projected economic impacts of reduced public land grazing due to drought.

**Action:** Economic, employment, and household income impacts from reduced public land grazing in Lincoln County estimated and sent to Lincoln County commissioner. (Assignment completed)

**F. Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:**

   Eureka County

   **Location of Workshop:** Eureka County
**Nature of Workshop:** Impact of future growth of Nevada dairies on Eureka County’s economy.

**Action:** An outreach workshop was held at the Eureka County Extension Office with 8 attendees to listen to presentations of potential economic opportunities in Eureka County from the opening and operation of a dry milk processing plant in Churchill County. (Assignment completed)

2. **Client:** Pershing County

**Location of Presentation:** Pershing County

**Nature of Presentation:** Impact of future growth of Nevada dairies on Pershing County’s economy.

**Action:** An outreach workshop was held at the Pershing County Extension Office with 12 attendees to listen to presentations of potential economic opportunities in Eureka County from the opening and operation of a dry milk processing plant in Pershing County. (Assignment completed)

3. **Client:** Duckwater Paiute Tribe

**Location of Presentation:** Duckwater Paiute Tribe Reservation

**Nature of Presentation:** Presentation of results of economic impacts of the Duckwater Paiute Tribe on economy of White Pine County.

**Action:** Presentation of economic, employment, and household income impacts. (Assignment completed)

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

1. **Client:** Western Agricultural Economics Association

**Location of Presentation:** Monterey, California

**Nature of Presentation:** Presented selected paper at the Western Agricultural Economic Association annual meeting.

**Action:** Presented paper below:

Harris, Thomas R., Jeffery Stroup, and Mark Nichols. “Sources of Growth and Cyclical Stability by ERS County Typology”

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, Resubmitted, and Accepted for Publication 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: