University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
For the Period
1 July to 30 September, 2016

Prepared by
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for

Economic Development Administration
Grant No. 07-66-06883-04

October 2016

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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 first quarter of FY 2016-2017. During the first quarter, the University Center produced fifteen applied research projects, sixteen other research projects, five technical and management assistance projects, two counseling and referrals, three workshops, one technical presentation, six University Center technical reports, two journal article that has been 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 first quarter, fiscal year 2016/2017 by the University Center. Three workshops, one technical presentation, one journal articles accepted, and six University Center technical reports published.

The University Center currently maintains a Facebook page the address is, [https://www.facebook.com/pages/University-Center-for-Economic-Development-UNR/1421366588119408](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](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 continuously 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](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 implementation guide and PowerPoint presentations are being developed by the ASAP team. ASAP Implementations are ongoing in Grand County, Utah, Lewiston, UT, Valley County, ID, and Cibola New Mexico. A new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant for three years was submitted for review. (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:** Impact for various Nevada counties has been initiated. Also initiated a Tahoe Forest Hospital District Study. A Rural Health Workshop will be presented in October. (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. A professional paper was submitted, accepted and presented to the Western Social Science Association. And a journal article is being developed. (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 fourth year of a five year project is underway. A master’s thesis estimating the economic impact of restricted solar development due to Sage Hen habitat designation was completed. And a journal article from this research is being developed. (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:**
1. Updating and re-estimating international crops model. Model re-estimation with current supply/demand, price, macroeconomic, and policy data.
2. Macroeconomic scenarios for CoBank. Two macroeconomic scenarios were run in conjunction with the University of Missouri, Texas Tech University, and the University of Arkansas. The purpose of the scenarios was to provide information and impacts of a
negative global economic scenario, and a severely negative global economic scenario on
global agricultural markets. The information was for CoBank’s required stress test.

3. August 2016 Baseline Update. This is the annual summer update of the FAPRI baseline
projections. Summary tables are on the UCED website.

4. We are also updating the Nevada state enterprise budgets that are utilized in creating input/output
cost matrices and production functions that better reflect the Silver State’s true agricultural
economy. These have been updated with cost data through 2014 and were utilized in water
analysis this summer.

Action: Updated FAPRI international crops model equations with recent data on
supply/utilization, trade, prices, and policies. The new data was used to re-estimate the
model. Price linkages were re-estimated to reflect recent prices. Individual country models
were all revamped. This will continued into the second quarter.

We updated the FAPRI baseline projections in August. The international projections are on
the UCED website:

Helmar, Michael D. “2016 International Crops Baseline Update Summary Tables.”
University Center for Economic Development, Department of Economics, University of

Performed economic analysis on international agricultural markets for use in CoBank’s stress
test. The results are reported in:

FAPRI. “Agricultural Commodity Price Impacts of Federal Reserve Stress Test Scenarios.”

6: 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. Also a Western Regional Science Association presentation paper had been
developed. (Assignment continues.)

7: Client: Sempra Corporation

Location of Project: State of Nevada
**Nature of Project:** Estimate economic, employment, and household income impacts of solar development 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.)

**8: Client:** US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Bureau of Land Management

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Develop proposal to drive the feasibility of a native seed industry for the state of Nevada.

**Action:** Proposal developed and sent to state directors of US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Bureau of Land Management. (Assignment continues).

**9: Client:** State of Nevada Governor’s Office of Economic Development

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic and occupational clusters for targeted Advanced Manufacturing cluster.

**Action:** Cluster study has been initiated. (Assignment continues).

**10: Client:** State of Nevada Office of Mines

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Develop proposal to estimate the economic, employment, occupational, and household impact of reduced mining due to Sage Grouse habitat designation.

**Action:** A proposal was developed and submitted to the State of Nevada Office of Mines. (Assignment continues).

**11: Client:** Six County Group, Central Utah

**Location of Project:** Six Central Utah Counties

**Nature of Project:** Implementation of ASAP project for the Six County Group in Central Utah has begun.

**Action:** The ASAP process has been initiated in the Six County Group in the state of Utah. (Assignment continues).
12: **Client:** Escalante/Garfield County Utah  
**Location of Project:** Garfield County  
**Nature of Project:** Implementation of ASAP project for the Garfield County Utah has been initiated.  
**Action:** The ASAP process has been initiated in Garfield County, Utah. (Assignment continues).

13: **Client:** Valley County ID  
**Location of Project:** Valley County  
**Nature of Project:** Implementation of ASAP project for the Valley County ID began in April 2016.  
**Action:** Data inputs from Valley County in process of collection. (Assignment continues).

14: **Client:** Lewiston, UT  
**Location of Project:** Cache County  
**Nature of Project:** Implementation of ASAP project for the Valley County ID began in Summer 2016.  
**Action:** Data inputs from Lewiston, UT received June 2016 and ASAP model estimation in process (Assignment continues).

15: **Client:** Cibola County NM  
**Location of Project:** Cibola County  
**Nature of Project:** Implementation of ASAP project for the Cibola County ID began in Spring 2016.  
**Action:** ASAP model estimation complete. Initial output report complete and scheduling of output presentation in process (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:** Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association

**Location of Project:** Reno, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Development and assessment of a comprehensive assessment and survey of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Membership

**Action:** UCED faculty have agreed to conduct and complete a comprehensive assessment and survey of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association’s membership. This membership survey is an update to a similar survey completed by UCED faculty in 2011. A UCED technical report will be developed and presented to the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association during the Chapter’s 2016 Annual Conference to be held in Henderson, Nevada on October 16th, 2016 through October 19th, 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, the second community workshop was held on Saturday, January 23, 2016, and the third community workshop was held on Friday, February 26, 2016. The final community workshop is scheduled for Saturday, July 30, 2016. One UCED technical report, summarizing the results of the first community workshop, has already been completed and submitted to the City of Fernley. Two additional UCED technical reports, the final strategic plan for FY 2017 through FY 2021, and the second outlining a strategic communications plan for the City of Fernley, will be completed by early August 2016. (Assignment continues)


4. **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)

5. **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. UCED faculty produced two separate UCED technical reports, one summarizing the results of the research completed on various fiscal and administrative issues pertaining to funding and implementation of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan, and one summarizing the results of the research completed on various social issues pertaining to the development of strategies in the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan. The completed draft of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan was successfully adopted by the City of Reno, Nevada, the City of Sparks, Nevada and Washoe County in September 2016. (Assignment completed).


6. **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).

7. **Client:** Washoe County (Reno)  

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada and Western SMSA’s  

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of activity of Reno-Sparks SMSA relative to other SMSA’s in Western United States.  

**Action:** Data and analysis are being conducted to derive score card. A University Center publication is being developed. (Assignment continues)

8. **Client:** ImMache Livestock Sector Research Funds  

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Estimation of impacts of reduced grazing allotments on public lands by using CGE models.  

**Action:** Proposal developed and accepted. Research has been initiated. (Assignment continues)

9. **Client:** National Public Lands Council  

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  

**Nature of Project:** Develop Computable General Equilibrium model to estimate impacts on alternative federal land management policies.  

**Action:** Proposal written and submitted to Public Lands council. (Assignment continues)
10. Client: Tahoe Forest Hospital District

**Location of Project:** Tahoe Forest Hospital District

**Nature of Project:** Estimate the economic, employment, and household income impacts of operation and construction activates of the Tahoe Forest Hospital on the economy of the Tahoe Forest Hospital District.

**Action:** Proposal accepted and data is being collected. (Assignment continues)

11. Client: Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitor Authority in conjunction with Hot August Nights and Reno Air Racing Association

**Location of Project:** Washoe County Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Conduct on-site surveys of special events to determine economic impacts to the Reno/Tahoe economy.

**Action:** On-site surveys scheduled for Hot August Nights and National Championship Air Races during summer 2016. Hiring and training of team of 30+ student surveyors complete. Coordination and scheduling with event promoters complete (Assignment continues).

12. Client: Night in the Country, LLC

**Location of Project:** Lyon County Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Conduct on-site surveys of special events to determine economic impacts to the Lyon County economy.

**Action:** On-site surveys scheduled for Night in the County event in July 2016. Hiring and training of team of 30+ student surveyors complete. Coordination and scheduling with event promoters complete (Assignment continues).

13. Client: Western Nevada Development District

**Location of Project:** Western Nevada

**Nature of Project:** A Regulatory Food Map of the Western Nevada Development District

**Action:** UCED faculty assisted the Western Nevada Development District in the development of a comprehensive regulatory food map of the entire Western Nevada Development District. The regulatory food map, as a continuation of the Stronger Economies Together strategic economic development planning initiative completed in 2012 and 2013, outlines the various federal, state and local government regulatory requirements each level of government has for new and existing food producers, processors, and distributors operating within the Western Nevada Development District.

14. **Client:** Eureka County

**Location of Project:** Eureka County, Nevada (Diamond Valley)

**Nature of Project:** A Renewable Energy Economic Feasibility Study for Diamond Valley

**Action:** UCED faculty are currently working with Eureka County, the Eureka County Economic Development Program Board, and the Eureka County Conservation District to study the potential development of solar energy production in Diamond Valley. The Nevada State Engineer has requested that agricultural producers in Diamond Valley reduce their pumping of water from the Diamond Valley Aquifer by approximately 75% due to the existing over-allocation of water rights that currently exists in Diamond Valley. Such a reduction would threaten the sustainability of agricultural production in Diamond Valley and through Eureka County. UCED faculty is currently studying the economic feasibility of solar power generation on corner pivots and fallowed fields as a way of off-setting the lost income individual growers and agricultural producers may experience due to a reduction in pumping and subsequent agricultural production. (Assignment continues)

15. **Client:** Off-Road Business Association

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** An Economic Impact Assessment of Off Highway Vehicles in Nevada

**Action:** UCED faculty are currently working with the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA) of Nevada to complete an economic impact assessment of the state’s off-highway vehicle industry for the entire State of Nevada. The ORBA has completed a visitor survey and will provide UCED faculty with the survey results so that UCED faculty may develop visitor and customer economic profiles of the visitors as a proxy estimate of total economic activity of the state’s off-highway vehicle industry. (Assignment continues)

16. **Client:** Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** A 2016 Assessment of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Membership.

**Action:** UCED faculty and staff are currently working on completing a comprehensive assessment of the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association’s membership based on a survey first designed by UCED faculty and staff in 2011 through 2012. (Assignment continues)
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. 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. A final report is being developed. (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).

5. **Client:** Duckwater Shoshone Tribe

**Location of Project:** Duckwater, Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Assist Development of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Duckwater.

**Action:** Assistance for CEDS development has been initiated. (Assignment continues).

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Penn State-Erie

**Location of Project:** Pennsylvania

**Nature of Project:** Requested information on casino impacts studies.

**Action:** Past studies and references sent to Penn State-Erie. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Ely, Nevada

**Location of Project:** White Pine County, Nevada.

**Nature of Project:** Requested price forecasts for alfalfa hay.

**Action:** Alfalfa hay prices forecasts sent to SBDC-Ely. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** Fundamentals of Economic Development Workshop 2.0

**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada.
**Nature of Workshop:** Socio-economic Data and Analysis for Economic Development.

**Action:** Workshop held on September 20, 2016. Workshop on procedures to analyze socio-economic data through time. (Assignment completed)

2. **Client:** Conservation District Leadership Development 2.0 Workshop

**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada

**Nature of Workshop:** Provide elected and appointed officials and staff of local conservation districts in Nevada with a general overview of the history of conservation in Nevada, applicable governing state law, the Nevada Code of Administrative Ethics, Nevada’s open meeting laws, and public budgeting and finance.

**Action:** Workshop held on June 3, 2016. (Assignment completed)

3. **Client:** Hometown Health Leadership Development Retreat

**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada

**Nature of Workshop:** An organizational-wide retreat held for Hometown Health focused on various aspects of leadership including developing a leadership style, communication, coaching, and conflict resolution.

**Action:** Workshop held on August 2, 2016. (Assignment completed)

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

1. **Client:** 2nd Annual Nevada Economic Development Conference

**Location:** Reno, Nevada

**Nature of Presentation:** Procedures to estimate economic cluster for Advanced Manufacturing for the Nevada economy.

**Action:** Presentation made at Manufacturing Sector of the conference. (Assignment completed)
H. Journal Articles and Publications for Fiscal Year 2015/16:

Journal Articles


University Center Technical Reports for Fiscal Year 2016/17:

Emm, Staci, “Mineral County Community Development Priorities” UCED 2015/16-01, July 2016.


