University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Fourth Quarter Report
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Prepared by
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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 2016-2017. During the fourth quarter, the University Center produced thirteen applied research projects, twelve other research projects, seven technical and management assistance projects, two counseling and referrals, two workshops, three University Center technical reports, and one journal article has been published and another is 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; 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.
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 2016/2017 by the University Center. Two workshops, one journal articles published, one journal article under review, and three 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 can 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:** ASAP Implementations are ongoing in Central and Southern Utah. A review and update is currently underway in Ely, Nevada. United State Department of Agriculture accepted a new National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant for three years. Research on data collected as part of the ASAP continues; several publications are in process. One publication sent for review at the Journal of Extension. (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 completed a Tahoe Forest Hospital District Study. A study has been initiated to estimate the economic, employment, and household income impacts of Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital on the Elko County, Nevada economy. (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 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. Two journal articles from this research are being developed. (Assignment continues.)
5: **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. A journal article is currently being developed (Assignment continues.)

6: **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. Proposal accepted and research has been initiated (Assignment continues).

7: **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).
8: **Client:** Nevada Association of Counties

**Location of Project:** State of Nevada

**Nature of Project:** Developing procedures to gather data and build an input-output vector that reflects lithium mining operations.

**Action:** Data is currently being collected to develop an input-output vector for a regional input-output model. (Assignment continues).

9: **Client:** Six County Association of Governments, 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).

10: **Client:** Escalante/Garfield County Utah

**Location of Project:** Garfield County

**Nature of Project:** Implementation of ASAP project for the Garfield County Utah began in summer 2016.

**Action:** ASAP model estimation complete. Initial output report and results presented to community. (Assignment continues).

11: **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:** ASAP model estimation complete. Initial output report completed and results presented to community. (Assignment continues).

12: **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:** ASAP model estimation complete. Initial output report completed and results presented to community. (Assignment continues).
13: Client: Churchill County Teff Producers
Location of Project: Churchill County
Nature of Project: Feasibility analysis of teff processing plant in Churchill County, Nevada.
Action: Feasibility analysis initiated and data is being collected. A grant to complete the feasibility analysis of a teff processing plant in Churchill County has been accepted (Assignment continues). Bartholet, Richard and Thomas R. Harris. "Feasibility Study of a Teff Flour Mill in Fallon". UCED 2016/17-15, July 2017.

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 Program, 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 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 were 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 was held on 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. An additional UCED technical report, summarizing the City of Fernley’s strategic plan for Fiscal Year 2017 through Fiscal Year 2021 has also been completed and submitted to the City of Fernley.
One additional UCED technical report, outlining a strategic communications plan for the City of Fernley, will be completed by early March 2017. (Assignment continues)


3. **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)

4. **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 City of Reno, Nevada, the City of Sparks, Nevada and Washoe County successfully adopted the completed draft of the 2016 One Truckee River Management Plan in September 2016. A proposal for additional research was developed and accepted by Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful. (Assignment completed)


5. **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, FAPRI-Missouri and the Office of the Chief Economist- USDA producing alternative scenario for European Union ethanol and biodiesel markets to analyze the impacts of EU trade barriers on internal biofuels markets and prices

**Action:** Integrating previously estimated price linkages containing EU tariff and duty variables into the FAPRI-Missouri international biofuels model to be able to simulate the impacts of removal of trade-distorting policies (Assignment continues).

6. **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 scorecard. A University Center publication is being developed. (Assignment continues)

7. **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)

8. **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, for potential funding. (Assignment continues)

9. 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: A publication has been developed and sent to Tahoe Forest Hospital District. (Assignment completed).


10. 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 offsetting the lost income individual growers and agricultural producers may experience due to a reduction in pumping and subsequent agricultural production. (Assignment continues)

11. Client: Lyon County

Location of Project: Lyon County, Nevada

Nature of Project: A Strategic Plan for Lyon County, Nevada

Action: UCED faculty are currently working with the county government of Lyon County to develop a new five-year strategic plan for Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2022. A series of community workshops will be held to solicit input from the community, elected and
appointed officials, and government executives on various aspects of the strategic plan. The first community workshop will be held in Yerington, Nevada on Friday, February 17, 2017 and additional community workshops will be held throughout the county in different locations in the first half of 2017. Several UCED technical reports will be produced and published by UCED faculty and staff summarizing the results of the various community workshops and the final five-year strategic plan for Lyon County for Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2022. (Assignment Continues).

12. Client: Lincoln County

Location of Project: Lincoln County

Nature of Project: Assisted in development of grant to USDA-Rural Development to estimate potential economic and development opportunities from proposed mountain bike trails in Lincoln County.

Action: Proposal developed and was accepted by USDA-Rural Development for funding. Project activity was initiated in June 2017. (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. Students at the conclusion will prepare final presentation and report. (Assignment continues).
3. **Client:** US Economic Development Administration  

**Location of Project:** Idaho Economic Development District Region III  

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

**Action:** UCED faculty and staff completed several stakeholder meetings with local government officials, government executives, economic development professionals, state representatives, and members of the public and private sector in January 2016 and March 2016. A UCED technical report, summarizing the stakeholder input and the independent assessment of Idaho Economic Development District Region III, was completed and submitted to the US Economic Development Administration’s Seattle Office after regional stakeholders reviewed it. UCED faculty are currently working with the US Economic Development Administration and regional stakeholders to pursue future strategic economic development planning initiatives. After publication, UCED may assist Region 3 in developing a strategy to develop a new organization. A proposal has been developed and sent to the Seattle Regional Office to assist Region 3 in developing a strategic plan and CEDS. (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).

6. **Client:** Yerington Paiute Tribe
Location of Project: Yerington, Nevada


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

7. Client: Business Council of Douglas County

Location of Project: Carson City, Douglas County, Story County, and Washoe County

Nature of Project: Survey of business license and permit applicants in Western Nevada Development District.

Action: Proposal developed and sent to the Business Council of Douglas County. The proposal has been accepted and work has been initiated. (Assignment continues).

E. Counseling and Referrals:

1. Client: Rail Solution

Location of Project: Northern Nevada

Nature of Project: Discussion of proposed economic study of land ferry in Northern Nevada.

Action: Attended phone call and discussed potential economic development potentials. (Assignment completed.)

2. Client: Resource Concepts Incorporated

Location of Project: Lincoln County

Nature of Project: Request any changes in AUM valuation.

Action: Derived changes to AUM values. (Assignment completed.)

F. Workshops and Seminars:

1. Client: White Pine County

Location of Workshop: Ely, Nevada

Nature of Workshop: Discuss results of Area Sector Analysis Process.
Action: Presented results and developed follow up progress. (Assignment completed)

2. Client:

Location of Workshop: Reno, Nevada

Nature of Workshop: Presentation of undergraduate research, mentor was UCED director.

Action: Presented results and developed follow up progress. (Assignment completed)

3. Client: Western Nevada Development District (WNDD)

Location of Workshop: Mineral County, Nevada

Nature of Workshop: Attended quarterly meeting of WNDD.

Action: Presented upcoming projects and workshops of UCED in the WNDD area. (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 2016/17:
Emm, Staci, “Mineral County Community Development Priorities” UCED 2015/16-01, July 2016.


Harris, Thomas R., John F. Packham. The Impact of Tahoe Forest Hospital on the Tahoe Forest Hospital District Economy”. UCED 2016-17-12, July 2017.
