University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

Second Quarter Report
For the Period
1 October to 31 December 2009

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. The Center for Economic Development continued to profile statewide and technical assistance on economic development for the second quarter of FY 2009-2010. During the second quarter, the University Center produced three applied research projects, three other research projects, three technical and management assistance projects, thirteen counseling and referrals, two workshops, five technical presentations, four University Center technical reports, two Cooperative Extension fact sheets and one under review, and one journal article and four 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, Chair and Professor in the Department of Resource Economics, State Extension Specialist, and Director of the Center for Economic Development; Maureen Kilkenny, Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and State Extension Specialist; Mariah Evans, Associate Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and State Extension Specialist; Kynda Curtis, Assistant Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and State Extension Specialist; Man-Keun Kim, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Resource Economics; Mimako (Mimi) Kobayashi, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Resource Economics; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Analyst; Ruzanna Yolyan, Research Analyst; Eugénie MontBlanc, Research Analyst; Sue Strom, Administrative Assistant; 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.
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. Four technical reports were published; two Cooperative Extension fact sheets were published, with one under review; and one journal article was published, with four under review during the second quarter, fiscal year 2009/2010 by the University Center. Two workshops 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: Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station

Location of Project: State of Nevada

Nature of Project: Estimation of location factors for biotechnology firms at the state level. Economic impacts of the biotechnology firms in Nevada were estimated.

Action: Detailed econometric models have been developed to estimate the factors of location for biotechnology firms. Interdependence of location of biotechnology firms is being estimated. A Master’s thesis was completed on this topic. Two University Center technical bulletins and two journal articles have been developed. (Assignment completed.)


2. **Client:** Western Rural Development Center  
**Location of Project:** Western States of the Nation  
**Nature of Project:** Western States of Nevada, Montana and Hawaii are developing a model to match businesses with community economic development preferences.  
**Action:** A Community Business Matching (CBM) model has been developed and applied in Anaconda, Montana; Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona. The CBM model is currently being applied to Monterey County, California, White Pine County, Nevada and four Montana counties. The model may be applied to Lander County, Nevada. A users’ manual is being developed as well as a train-the-trainer seminar. (Assignment continues.)  

3. **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:** Economic impacts of the healthcare sector in all Nevada counties are being re-estimated. A Web page has been developed for the University Center Web site that shows the economic impacts of Nevada’s hospitals by region. (Assignment continues.)

C. **Other Research Projects**

1. **Client:** Nevada Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Develop cooperative extension fact sheets on demographic and economic indicators of Nevada elderly.  
**Action:** Two cooperative extension fact sheets developed and published. (Assignment completed.)  

2. **Client:** Lander County Project FIND  
**Location of Project:** Lander County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Initiate study of potential economic clusters and commercial sector sales losses for Lander County.  
**Action:** Proposal has been drafted for potential funding. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** Nevada Landscape Association  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Conduct economic impact assessment of the Green or Landscape Industry on the state's economy.  
**Action:** Completing Impacts estimated and University Center technical report published. (Assignment completed.)


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

1. **Client:** National Extension  
**Location of Project:** Nationally  
**Nature of Project:** The USDA National Extension Service has developed a program area called eXtension: Entrepreneurship. This will be a national program to develop entrepreneurship extension education tools for the internet.  
**Action:** Initial meeting in Nashville, Tennessee to develop work plan and to outline entrepreneurship extension materials for the internet. (Assignment continues).

2. **Client:** Washoe County Commissioners  
**Location of Project:** Washoe County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested benefit/cost analysis of waste to energy potential project.  
**Action:** Proposal drafted and under review. (Assignment continues.)
3. **Client:** Nevada Cooperative Extension  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Develop and publish economic development extension fact sheets.  
**Action:** Two extension publications accepted and listed below. (Assignment continues.)  

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Internal Revenue Service  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested estimation of economic impacts of Earned Income Tax Credit on Nevada economy.  
**Action:** Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) data set by Nevada counties has been collected and county economic impacts of EITC are being calculated. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** Douglas County Manager  
**Location of Project:** Douglas County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested data and PowerPoint presentation concerning socio-economic trends in Douglas County.  
**Action:** Data and PowerPoint sent to Douglas County Manager. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Under Secretary of USDA – Rural Development  
**Location of Project:** Reno, NV  
**Nature of Project:** Breakfast meeting with Under Secretary Vasquez to discuss economic issues in rural Nevada.  
**Action:** Attended and participated in Under Secretary Vasquez’s breakfast meeting. (Assignment completed.)
4. Client: University of Nevada Center for Regional Studies  
Location of Project: State of Nevada  
Nature of Project: Assisted Center for Regional Studies in developing proposal to assess current state of Nevada fiscal system.  
Action: Assisted with data, analysis and writing of proposal to state of Nevada Senate for assessing current state of Nevada fiscal system. (Assignment completed.)

5. Client: Reno Gazette Journal Newspaper  
Location of Project: Reno, Nevada  
Nature of Project: Requested information as to potential impacts of expenditure losses of unemployed construction workers in Washoe County.  
Action: Economic impacts of unemployed Washoe County construction workers were estimated. A memo developed and sent to Reno Gazette-Journal and data used in a news article. (Assignment completed.)

Location of Project: Sierra Nevada College  
Nature of Project: Meeting to discuss issues to increase commercialization of renewable energy projects in Nevada.  
Action: Attended and participated in meeting. (Assignment completed.)

7. Client: Nevada Farm Bureau  
Location of Project: State of Nevada  
Nature of Project: Requested information as to a time series of GDP by state.  
Action: Data found on U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Web site. Web site address sent to Nevada Farm Bureau. (Assignment completed.)

8. Client: Biochar Group of Nevada  
Location of Project: State of Nevada  
Nature of Project: Attended and participated in meeting to discuss potential biochar funding.  
Action: Attended and participated in meeting. (Assignment completed.)
9. **Client:** Nevada Rural Development Council  
**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Reorganization of Nevada Rural Development Council.  
**Action:** Participated in discussion to reorganize Nevada Rural Development Council. (Assignment completed.)

10. **Client:** Coeur Rochester Mining Company  
**Location of Project:** Pershing County  
**Nature of Project:** Request projections of economic, employment and income impacts of re-opening Rochester mine.  
**Action:** Estimates of impacts drafted into a memorandum and sent to Coeur Rochester, Inc. (Assignment completed.)

11. **Client:** Nevada Horse Park Association  
**Location of Project:** Minden/Gardnerville, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested feasibility of potential Nevada Horse Park.  
**Action:** Feasibility study currently underway. (Assignment continues.)

12. **Client:** Reno Gazette Journal Newspaper  
**Location of Project:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested assessment of potential shopping activity after Thanksgiving.  
**Action:** Discussed trends that were incorporated in a news article. (Assignment completed.)

13. **Client:** Lincoln County Planning Department  
**Location of Project:** Lincoln County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested potential fiscal impacts of a renewable energy project.  
**Action:** Project’s fiscal impacts as related to new state of Nevada laws sent to Planning Department. (Assignment completed.)
F. Workshops and Seminars:

1. Client: Churchill County Rotary Club  
   **Location of Workshop:** Fallon, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Requested presentation on the economic impacts of agriculture on the economy of Churchill County.  
   **Action:** Presentation made to Churchill County Rotary Club. (Assignment completed.)

2. Client: Sustainable Energy and Communities Summit  
   **Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Requested presentation on University of Nevada, Reno as a catalyst for development in the state of Nevada economy.  
   **Action:** Presentation made at Summit. (Assignment completed.)

G. Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:

1. Client: Nevada Commission on Economic Development  
   **Location of Presentation:** Carson City, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Requested presentation of socio-economic trends in rural Nevada.  
   **Action:** Presentation made at the Nevada Commission on Economic Development Conference/Workshop on Community Economic Development. (Assignment completed).

   **Location of Presentation:** Sparks, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Selected paper presented.  
   **Action:** Presented paper:  
3. **Client:** 56th Annual North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International  
**Location of Presentation:** San Francisco, California  
**Nature of Presentation:** Presented two papers.  
**Action:** Presented papers are listed below:  
Harris, Thomas R., Man-Keun Kim and Erquin Zhu. “Stochastic Rangeland Fires: Ranch and Regional Level Impacts.”  
(Assignment completed).

4. **Client:** International Terminus Lake Symposium  
**Location of Presentation:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Presentation:** Co-authored a presented paper at the symposium.  
**Action:** Presented paper is listed below:  
(Assignment completed).

5. **Client:** International Terminus Lake Symposium  
**Location of Presentation:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Presentation:** Presented co-authored paper at the symposium.  
**Action:** Presented paper is listed below:  
(Assignment completed).

H. **Journal Articles and Proceedings**  


