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. The Center for Economic Development continued to profile statewide and technical assistance on economic development for the fourth quarter of FY 2009-2010. During the fourth quarter, the University Center produced four applied research projects, five other research projects, three technical and management assistance projects, eighteen counseling and referrals, three workshops, one technical presentation, three University Center technical reports with one under review, one Cooperative Extension fact sheet with one under review, and three journal articles with one 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; Malieka Landis, 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. Three technical reports were published, with one under review; one Cooperative Extension fact sheet was published with one under review; and three journal articles were published, with one under review during the fourth quarter, fiscal year 2009/2010 by the University Center. Three workshops 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](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:** 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; Lander County, Nevada and four Montana counties. A users’ manual is being developed as well as a train-the-trainer seminar. (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:** 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 and health care sector on Nevada regions and counties. A seminar on Rural Health Works is being developed for presentation on July 7, 2010 in Reno, Nevada. (Assignment continues.)
3. **Client:** Esmeralda County Commissioners  
**Location of Project:** Esmeralda County  
**Nature of Project:** Trade Adjustment Assistance Opportunity Grant.  
**Action:** A proposal was developed for a possible Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Opportunity grant for Esmeralda County. (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** Penn State University  
**Location of Project:** National  
**Nature of Project:** Development of proposal for Economic Development Administration request for proposal, “Regional Innovative Cluster Mapping Project.”  
**Action:** Partner in multi-university proposal for the Regional Innovative Cluster Mapping Project. Awaiting information as to possible acceptance of proposal. (Assignment continues.)

C. **Other Research Projects**

1. **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. Also, initiate questionnaire development for business owners and commercial sector consumers in Lander County.  
**Action:** Business owner and commercial sector customer questionnaires have been developed and are currently being mailed. Also, targeted industry cluster analysis is being written. (Assignment continues.)

2. **Client:** Humboldt General Hospital  
**Location of Project:** Humboldt County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Initiated and completed feasibility study of potential helicopter emergency service for Humboldt General Hospital.  
**Action:** Feasibility study is being developed and will be sent to Humboldt General Hospital. (Assignment continues.)

3. **Client:** EPG, Inc., Preparing EIS for Armargosa Valley and Nye County  
**Location of Project:** Armargosa Valley and Nye County  
**Nature of Project:** The Pahrump Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in response to a right-of-way application submitted by Solar Millennium, LLC to construct and operate the Armargosa Farm Road Solar Energy Project. The proposed Project includes the construction and operation of two 232-megawatt (MW) dry-cooled solar power plants equipped with thermal energy storage capability and associated ancillary linear facilities. Facilities located within the Project area would occupy approximately 4,350 acres and would include solar fields, power blocks, an office and maintenance building, parking area, lay-down area, switchyard, and storm water detention basin.
Following NEPA planning process, this scope of work is to conduct the socioeconomic impact analysis for the proposed construction and operation of the Armargosa Farm Road Solar Energy Project.

Social and economic characteristics of a community or region are one of the first steps in understanding the overall dynamics of a community. This is especially important when a community/region is planning or experiencing change because it provides valuable information for planning and development purposes. This is the case for the Region of Influence (ROI) with the development and operation of the Armargosa Farm Road Solar Energy Project (AFRSEP). The ROI is defined as Nye and Clark counties in Nevada, with a focus on Nye County communities of Armargosa Valley, Beatty, and Pahrump. Each of these communities is in close proximity to the proposed Armargosa Valley Project and will play an integral part to its development and operation.

The purpose of the report is to provide the communities in the ROI with a baseline understanding of the most current and projected social and economic characteristics. Understanding these characteristics and how they are changing will also provide an understanding as to how these communities may be linked or dependent on one another. For example, what are the demographics of the population located next or near the ROI, where are they living and where are they working? These characteristics are very important when considering community and economic development planning and assessment.

**Action:** Conducted full socioeconomic impact assessment of the proposed Armargosa Farm Road Solar Energy Project.  (Assignment continues.)

4. **Client:** State of Nevada  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Initiate and complete a dynamic shift-share analysis of state of Nevada.  
**Action:** Calculation of dynamic shift-share analysis for the state of Nevada has been completed. The text of the study is currently underway.  (Assignment continues.)

5. **Client:** Walker River Study  
**Location of Project:** Lyon and Mineral counties  
**Nature of Project:** A community business matching model for Lyon and Mineral counties.  
**Action:** A community business matching model is being initiated for Lyon and Mineral counties.  (Assignment continues.)

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:** A study of potential recyclable products and procedures for Washoe County was drafted and completed. The study has been reviewed and is currently being re-written to incorporate editorial suggestions. (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:** One extension publication accepted this quarter and one under review as listed below. (Assignment continues.)  

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** University of Idaho  
**Location of Project:** State of Idaho  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information of previous wild horse and burro studies completed by the University of Nevada, Reno University Center.  
**Action:** Previous University Center technical bulletins sent to the University of Idaho. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** University of Nevada Extended Studies College  
**Location of Project:** Statewide  
**Nature of Project:** Requested economic development multipliers for construction and operation of geothermal operations in Nevada.  
**Action:** Construction and operation multipliers were calculated and sent to UNR Extended Studies. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Battle Mountain High School  
**Location of Project:** Battle Mountain, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** University Center assisted Battle Mountain High School civics class in presenting results of business owner survey.
**Action:** University Center assisted in development of PowerPoint and understanding of survey results for Battle Mountain High School civics class. Results were presented by the class to Lander County Project FIND meeting. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Client:** University of Pacific  
**Location of Project:** Stockton, California  
**Nature of Project:** Requested previous UNR University Center technical bulletins on estimating economic impacts of UNR on the Nevada economy.  
**Action:** University Center technical bulletins collected and sent to University of Pacific. Procedures to estimate economic impacts of a university on a state’s economy were also sent to the University of Pacific. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Jack Faucett Associates  
**Location of Project:** State of Massachusetts  
**Nature of Project:** Requested previous UNR University Center technical bulletins that estimated economic impacts of airports on a local economy.  
**Action:** UNR University Center technical bulletins found and sent to Jack Faucett Associates. (Assignment completed.)

6. **Client:** Pyramid Lake Tribe  
**Location of Project:** Pyramid Lake Reservation  
**Nature of Project:** Assistance in developing proposal for feasibility analysis of potential child care project  
**Action:** Completed proposal for potential feasibility study of child care facility at the Pyramid Lake Tribe Reservation. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** University of Nevada Press  
**Location of Project:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Reviewed book titled “Small Town in Global Society: Community and Economic Development in Rural West?”  
**Action:** Review completed. (Assignment completed.)

8. **Client:** Nye County Transmission Group  
**Location of Project:** Beatty, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Attended presentations of green industry and electric transmission studies for Nye County.  
**Action:** Attended and participated in meeting. (Assignment completed.)

9. **Client:** USDA – Rural Development  
**Location of Project:** Ely, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Attended and participated in Northern Nevada Biomass Work Group.
**Action:** Attended and participated in Northern Nevada Biomass Work Group. (Assignment completed.)

10. **Client:** RSG, Incorporated of Santa Ana, California  
**Location of Project:** Sparks, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested copies of previous UNR University Center technical bulletins on industrial targeting for Sparks.  
**Action:** UNR University Center technical bulletins collected and sent to RSG, Incorporated. (Assignment completed.)

11. **Client:** University of Nevada, Reno Media Relations  
**Location of Project:** National data  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to lifetime income differentials for persons attending college and those who did not.  
**Action:** Lifetime earnings differentials for persons who attended college and those who did not were sent to UNR Media Relations. (Assignment completed.)

12. **Client:** Nevada Rural Development Council  
**Location of Project:** Rural Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to challenges facing rural Nevada economic development.  
**Action:** A memorandum on challenges for economic development in rural Nevada was sent to the Nevada Rural Development Council. (Assignment completed.)

13. **Client:** Boy Scouts of Elko County  
**Location of Project:** Elko County  
**Nature of Project:** Requested UNR University Center technical bulletins that estimate economic impacts of mining sectors on Elko County economy.  
**Action:** UNR University Center technical bulletins collected and sent to Boy Scouts of Elko. (Assignment completed.)

14. **Client:** Internal Revenue Service  
**Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Information as to economic impacts of Earned Income Tax Credits.  
**Action:** Initial analysis completed and a University Center technical bulletin planned. (Assignment completed.)

15. **Client:** Community of Tonopah  
**Location of Project:** Tonopah, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Economic and employment impacts of three new retailers in Tonopah.  
**Action:** Impacts of three new retail businesses completed. (Assignment completed.)
16. **Client:** Lahontan Valley Environmental Alliance  
**Location of Project:** Churchill County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested two studies that estimated economic impacts of local agricultural sector on the county's economy.  
**Action:** University Center technical bulletins found and mailed to Lahontan Valley Environmental alliance. (Assignment completed.)

17. **Client:** White Pine County Economic Diversification Council  
**Location of Project:** White Pine County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to the Community Business Matching model process.  
**Action:** Materials covering the CBM was sent to White Pine County Economic Diversification Council. (Assignment completed.)

18. **Client:** U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
**Location of Project:** Pershing County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Potential economic, employment, and household income impacts of opening Coeur Rochester Mine.  
**Action:** Impacts estimated and sent to Pershing County office of Bureau of Land Management. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** White Pine County Economic Development Authority  
**Location of Workshop:** Ely, Nevada  
**Nature of Presentation:** Discussed socio-economic trends and industrial targets for White Pine County.  
**Action:** Presentation made in Ely, Nevada. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Proposed Lake Tahoe Economic Development District  
**Location of Workshop:** North and South Lake Tahoe  
**Nature of Presentation:** Attended presentations on Lake Tahoe Prosperity Study.  
**Action:** Participated in presentations. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Western Rural Development Center  
**Location of Workshop:** Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Nature of Presentation:** Discussed the Community Business Matching model.  
**Action:** Presentation of Community Business Matching model and alternative procedures for business survey were discussed. (Assignment completed.)
G. **Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:**

1. **Client:** Sierra College  
   **Location of Presentation:** Truckee, CA  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Presented national, state, and local current and future economic trends.  
   **Action:** Presentation made at Sierra College in Truckee, California. (Assignment completed).

H. **Journal Articles and Proceedings**


University Center Technical Reports  
For Fiscal Year 2009/10


