University of Nevada, Reno

University Center for Economic Development

First Quarter Report
For the Period
1 July to 30 September 2010

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 first quarter of FY 2010-2011. During the first quarter, the University Center produced eight applied research projects, eight other research projects, seven technical and management assistance projects, eight counseling and referrals, two workshops, two technical presentations, one University Center technical report with three under review, one Cooperative Extension fact sheet under review, and one journal article.

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 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; Kimberly Rollins, Associate Professor in the Department of Resource Economics; Mimako (Mimi) Kobayashi, Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Resource Economics; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Analyst; Margaret Cowee, Research Analyst; Ruzanna Yolyan, Research Analyst; Malieka Landis, Research Analyst; Anita Castledine, 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. One technical report was published, with three under review; one Cooperative Extension fact sheet is under review; and one journal article was published during the fourth quarter, fiscal year 2009/2010 by the University Center. Two workshops and two technical presentations and lectures 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 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; Lander County, Nevada and four Montana counties. A users’ manual is being developed as well as a train-the-trainer seminar.

   (Assignment continues.)


   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-estimted. 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:** Special Need Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant.  
**Action:** A proposal was developed and submitted for a possible Economic Adjustment Assistance grant for Esmeralda County based on special need. (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.)

5. **Client:** State of Nevada  
**Location of Project:** White Pine County  
**Nature of Project:** Estimation of economic feasibility of pinyon-juniper harvesting.  
**Action:** A study committee is being coordinated and a proposal will be drafted. (Assignment continues.)

6. **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. Also find reasons why or why not ranchers adopt these technologies.  
**Action:** A Nevada Arid Rangeland Initiative proposal written and accepted. (Assignment continues.)

7. **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.  
**Action:** Model analysis has been initiated to derive economic linkages of the Nevada dairy industry. (Assignment continues.)

8. **Client:** Reno Gazette Journal  
**Location of Project:** Northern California Megopolitan Region  
**Nature of Project:** Compiled socio-economic data describing the Northern California Megopolitan Region  
**Action:** A University Center Technical Bulletin is being developed describing the economic linkages of the Northern California Megopolitan Region. (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 mailed. Questionnaire replies are being coded. 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 complete.)

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 has been completed and is being reviewed. (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 program is being initiated for Lyon and Mineral counties. (Assignment continues.)

6. **Client:** Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe  
**Location of Project:** Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation  
**Nature of Project:** Strategic plan for child care for members of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.  
**Action:** A proposal was drafted and accepted. A questionnaire is being developed to determine child care needs of the Pyramid Lake Tribe members. (Assignment continues.)

7. **Client:** USDA – Rural Development  
**Location of Project:** Northeast Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Develop proposal to estimate the potential financial feasibility of pinyon-juniper eradication for fuels.  
**Action:** A proposal is being developed. (Assignment continues.)

8. **Client:** Churchill County Dairy Industry  
**Location of Project:** Churchill County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Development of representative Churchill County dairy for estimation of financial impacts of alternative federal programs.  
**Action:** A representative dairy of Churchill County developed and is currently being validated. (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 as listed below. (Assignment continues.)  

4. **Client:** Reno Gazette Journal  
   **Location of Project:** Northern Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Develop a publication covering impacts of current recession.  
   **Action:** A publication was written and sent to the Reno Gazette Journal. (Assignment completed.)

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Internal Revenue Service  
   **Location of Project:** State of Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Request to initiate study of economic impacts of Earned Income Tax Credit.  
   **Action:** Data has been requested from Internal Revenue Service to initiate impact study. (Assignment continues.)
2. **Client:** White Pine County Economic Diversification Council  
**Location of Project:** White Pine County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested development of a proposal for possible Community Business Matching model program.  
**Action:** A proposal was developed and sent to White Pine county Economic Diversification Council. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Lake Tahoe Area of Nevada and California  
**Location of Project:** Lake Tahoe Area  
**Nature of Project:** Prosperity planning meeting for Lake Tahoe Area.  
**Action:** Attended and participated in Lake Tahoe prosperity planning meeting. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Client:** Douglas County, Nevada  
**Location of Project:** Douglas County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information as to hoop houses for agricultural enterprises.  
**Action:** Data and extension fact sheet on hoop houses sent to Douglas County. (Assignment completed.)

5. **Client:** Renown Hospital  
**Location of Project:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Renown Hospital requested information as to economic, employment, and household income impacts of Renown Hospital on Washoe County economy.  
**Action:** Economic, employment, and household income inputs from Renown Hospital operations on Washoe County estimated and memorandum sent to Renown Hospital. (Assignment completed.)

6. **Client:** Colorado State University Cooperative Extension  
**Location of Project:** Colorado  
**Nature of Project:** Request copy of mobile slaughter unit feasibility study.  
**Action:** Copy of University Center Technical bulletin sent to Colorado State University. (Assignment completed.)

7. **Client:** Douglas County Planner’s Office  
**Location of Project:** Douglas County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information on county amounts of dividends, interest, and rents and earning per job for Douglas County.  
**Action:** Time series of Douglas County dividends, interest, and rents and earning per job sent to Douglas County Planner’s office. (Assignment completed.)
8. **Client:** Richard Tremblay, Nevada Economic Development Representative  
**Location of Project:** North Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested socio-economic data for thirteen zip codes in North Las Vegas.  
**Action:** Socio-economic data for thirteen zip codes in North Las Vegas collected and memorandum of data sent to Richard Tremblay. (Assignment completed.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** EDA Rollout of New Program  
**Location of Workshop:** Sacramento, California  
**Nature of Presentation:** Presentation by EDA on the new process for applying for EDA funds.  
**Action:** Attended and participated in meeting. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Realty Properties  
**Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada  
**Nature of Presentation:** Requested presentation on the national, state, and Washoe County trends.  
**Action:** Presentation made to employees of Realty Properties. (Assignment completed.)

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

1. **Client:** USDA – Rural Development and Farm Services Agency  
**Location of Presentation:** Carson City, Nevada  
**Nature of Presentation:** Presentation of results of mobile slaughter system feasibility analysis.  
**Action:** Presentation of the feasibility study of the mobile slaughter system made in Carson City. (Assignment completed).

2. **Client:** Battle Mountain, Nevada  
**Location of Presentation:** Battle Mountain, Nevada  
**Nature of Presentation:** Presentation of Community Business Matching Model.  
**Action:** Presentation made in Battle Mountain, Nevada. (Assignment completed).

H. **Journal Articles and Proceedings**


