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 2008-2009. During the fourth quarter, the University Center produced four applied research projects, four other research projects, five technical and management assistance projects, five counseling and referrals, three workshops, three University Center technical reports, one Cooperative Extension fact sheet under review, one journal article and three under review, and two book chapters have been published.

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; Elizabeth (Betsy) Fadali, Research Analyst; Ruzanna Yolyan, 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, one Cooperative Extension fact sheet was under review, one journal article was published and three are under review, and two book chapters were published during the fourth quarter, fiscal year 2008/2009 by the University Center. Three workshops were offered by the University Center to present economic data and results of a 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. Data may be defined for download using a web form and are available in a choice of download formats. 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 for 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: Estimate of location factors for biotechnology firms at the state level. Economic impacts of the biotechnology firms in Nevada are also being 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. A University Center technical bulletin and two journal articles are being developed and submitted for publication. (Assignment continues.)
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 model has been developed and has been applied in Anaconda, Montana; Laughlin, Nevada and Bullhead City, Arizona. 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, Pennsylvinia, 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 have been estimated and publications are currently being developed. (Assignment continues.)


4. Client: White Pine County Commissioners

Location of Project: White Pine County, Nevada

Nature of Project: Analysis of county emergency medical services.

Action: Data collection of local emergency medical services completed for White Pine County. A University Center publication was developed and sent to the City of Ely. A presentation of results made to county and city leaders. (Assignment completed.)

C. Other Research Projects

1. **Client:** Walker River Basin  
   **Location of Project:** Walker River Basin  
   **Nature of Project:** Estimation of the economic impacts of surface purchases in Lyon County for fresh water flow to Walker Lake.  
   **Action:** Two proposals were submitted and accepted for the Walker River Basin Study. Studies and final reports have been completed. A presentation of results was made in Yerington. (Assignment completed.)  


2. **Client:** U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
   **Location of Project:** Jarbidge Study Area  
   **Nature of Project:** Analysis of study area economic, household income, and employment impacts from alternative public land management policies in the Jarbidge Study Area.  
   **Action:** Estimations of economic, household income and employment impacts in the Jarbidge Study Area have been calculated. Report of findings have been developed and accepted. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Nevada Business Connections  
   **Location of Project:** Douglas County, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Investigated diversification opportunities in Douglas County.  
   **Action:** Developed publication on alternative diversification impacts. (Assignment completed.)  


4. **Client:** Dyer Engineering Consultants  
   **Location of Project:** Metropolis, Nevada  
   **Nature of Project:** Estimate economic impacts of dam restoration on Bishop Creek in the Metropolis Irrigation District.  
   **Action:** A report written and sent to Dyer Engineering Consultants. (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: Cooperative Extension  
   Location of Project: State of Nevada  
   Nature of Project: Extension publication on in-commuters and out-commuters for the state of Nevada and its seventeen counties.  
   Action: In-commuters and out-commuters data is being collected at the state and county level. University of Nevada Cooperative Extension publications have been developed. Currently four this fiscal year and one last fiscal year have been published. (Assignment continues.)

3. Client: High Sierra Industries  
   Location of Project: State of Nevada  
   Nature of Project: Estimate economic impact of expenditures of non-profit industries such as High Sierra Industries.  
   Action: A study has been initiated to estimate the economic impacts of certain non-profit businesses such as High Sierra Industries. A University Center Technical Bulletin is currently being developed. (Assignment continues.)

4. Client: University of Nevada, Reno  
   Location of Project: State of Nevada  
   Nature of Project: Request to estimate economic impacts of the University of Nevada, Reno on the Nevada economy and economic impacts of the proposed $73 million cut in the University of Nevada’s budget.  
   Action: Memorandums were developed and sent to the President’s Office of the University of Nevada, Reno. (Assignment completed.)
5. **Client:** International Economic Development Council  
**Location of Project:** Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested paper on the border sales tax disputes between Carson City and Douglas County.  
**Action:** Paper drafted and accepted for the Reno meeting. (Assignment continues.)

E. **Counseling and Referrals:**

1. **Client:** Utah State University  
**Location of Project:** Logan, Utah  
**Nature of Project:** Requested information about the Community Business Matching Model.  
**Action:** Sent information about CBM to Utah State University. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Nevada Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology  
**Location of Project:** Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Set up compressed video site for quarterly CET meeting.  
**Action:** Compressed video sites set and quarterly meeting of Nevada CET held. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** Western Rural Development Center (WRDC)  
**Location of Project:** Carson City, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Set up listening session for rural Nevada economic development issues for Western Rural Development Center.  
**Action:** Listening session for WRDC was set up and the session held in Carson City. Remarks were noted and a paper is being developed by WRDC. (Assignment completed.)

4. **Client:** Silver State Police Officers Museum  
**Location of Project:** Virginia City, Nevada  
**Nature of Project:** Requested assistance for feasibility project.  
**Action:** Initiated and collected data that was sent to Silver State Police Officers Museum Committee that could be used for a feasibility analysis. (Assignment completed.)
5. **Client:** Rural Development Centers  
**Location of Project:** State College, Pennsylvania  
**Nature of Project:** Meeting of representatives of regional development centers to discuss development of a targeted economic development extension program.  
**Action:** Meeting held at Penn State University and assignments made to develop an industrial targeting national extension program. (Assignment continues.)

F. **Workshops and Seminars:**

1. **Client:** Central Nevada  
   **Location of Workshop:** Yerington, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Presented national economic trends and potential national energy trends for agricultural risk management program denoted as “Strategies for Energy Cost Reductions and Alternative Energy Solutions.”  
   **Action:** Presentation made in Yerington workshop. (Assignment completed.)

2. **Client:** Washoe County  
   **Location of Workshop:** Reno, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Presented national economic trends and potential national energy trends for agricultural risk management program denoted as “Strategies for Energy Cost Reductions and Alternative Energy Solutions.”  
   **Action:** Presentation made in Reno. (Assignment completed.)

3. **Client:** White Pine County  
   **Location of Workshop:** Ely, Nevada  
   **Nature of Presentation:** Made two presentations in Ely, Nevada covering results of study on local emergency medical service. Presentations made to White Pine County Commissioners and City of Ely government.  
   **Action:** Two presentation made in White Pine County. (Assignment completed.)
G. Technical Presentations and Lectures by University Center Staff:

1. Client: Regional Science Association  
Location of Presentation: Federal Reserve Bank of New York  
Nature of Presentation: Explained how the study of rural economies in countries like the U.S. should differ from urban/regional economics; reviewed U.S. rural development research; indicators of U.S. rural distress; discussed the market forces and market failures that explain rural distress; and explained how those forces can undermine the applicability of existing rural/urban/regional theories to modern rural problems in U.S.A.  
Action: Presentation delivered; manuscript "Urban/Regional Economics and Rural Development" accepted for publication. (Assignment completed.)

2. Client: Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)  
Location of Presentation: OECD Headquarters; Paris, France  
Nature of Presentation: Expert Consultation Presentation “AIDING THE PROCESS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORM: EVALUATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT” - outlined how economists evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. rural development policies. Explained the strengths and weaknesses of structural, reduced form, and experimentalist approaches; reviewed applications to rural development policy analysis in the U.S., and discussed some ways forward.  
Action: Presentation delivered; manuscript "Experimentalist, Structural, and Reduced-form Approaches to Rural Development Policy Evaluation" submitted for publication. (Assignment completed.)

3. Client: Southern Regional Science Association  
Location of Workshop: San Antonio, Texas  
Nature of Presentation: Presented preliminary econometric analyses of the differences between rural and urban dependence of labor force mobility on home ownership status.  
Action: Presentation delivered: "The Role of Homeownership on Labor Market Outcomes in Rural Areas in the U.S." (Assignment completed.)

H. Journal Articles and Proceedings


I. Book Chapters


Curtis, Kynda, Staci Emm and Jason Entsminger. “Economic and Environmental Priorities of Walker River Basin Landowners.” University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Fact Sheet 08-20, August 2008.


Sendall, Brandon, Thomas R. Harris, Holly Gatzke and Loretta Singletary. “Inter-County Commuting Patterns in Lincoln County: Implications for Lincoln County's Economy.” University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Fact Sheet 08-25, September 2008.


Sendall, Brandon, Thomas R. Harris, Gary McCuin and Loretta Singletary. “Inter-County Commuting Patterns in Eureka County: Implications for Eureka County’s Economy.” University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Fact Sheet 08-33, October 2008.


Fadali, Elizabeth, Yolyan, Ruzanna and Thomas R. Harris. "Economic Indicators for Nevada Elders.” University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet under review.