



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

## University

University of New Orleans

## Center Director

Ivan Miestchovich

## Center Location

Outreach Unit

## Center since 1978

## Center Activities

- Strategic and comprehensive planning assistance
- Business plan support
- Applied research on local real estate
- Conferences on regional economy

## Clients

- Non-profits
- Local/state/regional governments
- Community development organizations
- Businesses

## Assessment Techniques

- Feedback from program staff
- Client interviews
- Feedback from regional workshops

## Contact Information

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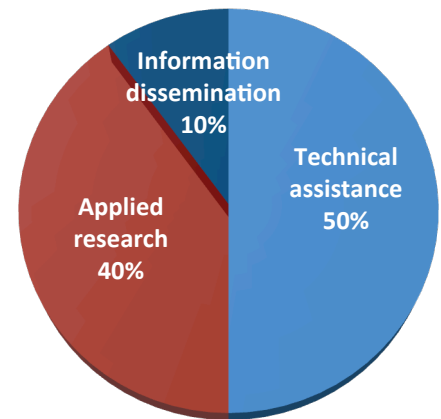
## Center for Economic Development

The Center for Economic Development at the University of New Orleans (UNO) is an interdisciplinary public service and outreach unit of the College of Business Administration providing a broad range of technical assistance and applied research services. The primary focus of the Center's services are businesses, community organizations, local and regional governments, and nonprofit agencies whose interest and efforts are devoted to economic development. Supported by the EDA grant, matching university funds, state government funds, foundation/non-profit organization funds, and program fees, the Center serves as an access point and conduit for delivery of university-based resources to address the needs of distressed and underserved communities in its service area.

## Activities

The Center strives to reach its goals through facilitation of economic development strategic planning initiatives such as the planning and feasibility analysis of a business

incubator of an economic development foundation and a processing facility for a local region. The Center also assists in formulating economic redevelopment strategies for local governments, particularly in regard to the disasters the area has experienced over the past decade. The Center strives to stay connected through out the region in economic development by routinely participating in or facilitating meetings focused on some



aspect of recovery and rebuilding at the regional or local level. These meetings encompass representatives of the business, civic and governmental communities.

One of the Center's larger on-going applied research projects is the publication of an annual report on

economic and real estate trends and the hosting of an annual conference focusing on the outlook for the regional economy and real estate market. The 100+ page report includes extensive analysis of on occupancy, absorption, and price/rent trends as well as a review of demographic, economic and construction patterns in the

region. The reports are used extensively by public and private entities engaged in a wide range of projects related to the region's continuing rebuilding process.

*"The UNO Real Estate Market Data Center has been a valuable resource in the Louisiana market ever since I went into business 30 years ago. The university's ability to gather data, analyze it, and provide a historical prospective has been a key access into my organization's decision making."*

*--Center client*

### Leveraging

The Center for Economic Development leverages university assets such as data, expertise, and student labor. The Center uses students extensively for business planning for non-profits, which is part of a course. In addition, students are used as interns to support the applied research of the Center. Faculty expertise is leveraged by the Center through faculty participation in Center projects.

## Success Stories

### Training students and helping nonprofits

In the class, the Financial Administration of Nonprofit Organizations, teams of students are paired with local nonprofits to help write business plans. Over the past three years, this initiative has resulted in the preparation of nine nonprofit business plans and the preparation of supporting documents needed to incorporate, organize and secure tax exempt status. Most clients are small to medium sized nonprofit organizations focused on neighborhood revitalization, small business and entrepreneurship and local economic development.

**By sending students to work with local non-profits as part of their**

**preparation for non-profit concentrations in university degree programs, UNO's Center for Economic Development illustrates how a program can serve both students and external clients, achieved by closely directing student contributions.**

### Becoming a reliable source of timely information

Since its inception the UNO Center has published a comprehensive analysis of the regional real estate market covering the full range of residential, commercial and industrial properties. These published reports are widely circulated and attract significant media coverage locally as well as from regional and national outlets.

In addition to those having direct interests in real estate, the publications are used by local and regional EDO's and site selectors. The Center also leverages the investment in maintaining its extensive database by attracting contracted applied research projects.

**The Center leverages its expertise in real estate to attract outside support for the Center beyond the government and university investments.**