URP 290 Economic Impact Assignment
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This assignment is due Wednesday, April 14th. **40 POINTS**

**Guidelines for the Assignment**

- You have already chosen your study area, and you have built the model for your study area.
- Develop your impact scenario: a plant opening, a plant closing, etc. You are also welcome to consider multiple effects like what might happen if you increased tourism, or you wanted to consider a change in household spending locally. If you do, I’ll help you to specify the model properly. **My advice: keep it simple.**

  **You won’t get extra points for complicating the analysis.**

- I will, however, score you higher if you improve the model substantially from its basic setup.
- Make sure that you produce summary tables that are concise yet informative and help the reader understand what you did and what you found.
- Use the handout – Model Economic Analyses: An Economic Impact Assessment of an Ethanol Production Facility in the City of Herbert in Hoover County Iowa – as a guide to how I approach an economic impact assessment for a client. You do not need to be as thorough and chatty as I am in that piece, but you need to make sure that I understand the scenario, the data that you use to determine your impacts, and the actual findings.
- In your write-up you need to make it clear to me whether you are describing economic effects, economic impacts, or some combination of the two. Also, in your write-up make it clear to me how long you think it will take for the impacts to accrue.
- Use my handout as a cue: **I expect your report to be well-written and well-organized.** I will grade you on how well you did your analysis, how well you describe it, and on the content of your report. Do not confuse style with substance. I am most impressed with substance.
- Your report should not be longer than 5-7 pages in length (I will not penalize for exceeding 7 pages). You will email it to me on the due date. You will also send your model to me email to evaluate.
- This is a big fraction of your score, so please dedicate the appropriate amount of time and effort to it.

- The point here is for you to get practical experience using your model, experimenting with it, running a scenario, and writing it up. Do the basics well and you will be scored accordingly.

Contact me if you have problems as you go along, and I’ll do what I can long-distance to help.