



*Alliance For
Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success*

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Submitted By: Nicole K. Clift

BUTTE COUNTY ONE STOP LOCATIONS



**2445 Carmichael Drive
Chico, CA 95928
(530) 895-4364**



**2348 Baldwin Ave
Oroville, CA 95966
(530) 538-2228**



**78 Table Mountain Blvd
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-7301**



Building & Sustaining Profitability for North State Farmers & Ranchers

Building and Sustaining Profitability for North State Farmers and Ranchers, was the title of a collaborative presentation sponsored by NoRTEC, Buy Fresh Buy Local, and 3CORE. This event was held at Rolling Hills Casino in Tehama County, and focused on sustainable farming and ranching in the Tri County Region of Butte, Glenn, and Tehama Counties.

Jocie Boyer, research manager at California Employment Development Department introduced NoRTEC and presented the Natural Resources Cluster Analysis from 2005-2010. This study provides economic and workforce data for the NoRTEC 11-county region, with an emphasis on natural resource industry. Noelle Ferdon, the director of local food systems for Northern California Regional Land Trust and co-founder of the Buy Fresh Buy Local program, emphasized the importance of agriculture to the North State. Noelle then presented the Buy Fresh Buy Local Program, an agricultural marketing program for small to medium sized growers in the tri-county region. In addition, Marc Nemanic, the executive director of 3 CORE, explained how 3 CORE can assist ranchers and farmers to attain the capitol they may need to “grow” their business.

Throughout the day individuals participated in small discussion groups and worked together to create action plans for policies, education, infrastructure, and collaboration. Overall the outcome seemed to be focused on the need for keeping agriculture local, particularly on cold storage, hot packaging, and meat processing. All of these issues are being addressed through the collaboration of all parties involved and will continue to be a work in progress.



Career Transitioning Assistance

The Business Services Team in Butte County has been offering Rapid Response services to employees of businesses affected by layoffs or closures. Through the Rapid Response services our team has guided dislocated workers towards practical reemployment opportunities through the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) program. To assist these dislocated workers, our team works in tandem with an EDD representative explaining services we can provide such as resume workshops, interview skills, and job development. The EDD representative supplies valuable Unemployment Insurance information, accompanied by answering specific questions individuals may have.

The goal of Rapid Response is to capture dislocated workers and provide job search assistance so that they may enter back into the workforce. Through our services we have assisted many dislocated workers with re-training, job retention, and supportive services to keep their new employment position. Below are a few of the success stories

that have transpired from the Rapid Response presentations.

One dislocated worker from Pacific Oroville Power shared that he had an opportunity to obtain employment in Honolulu, Hawaii as a Maintenance Mechanic starting at a wage of \$31.17 hourly. AFWD assisted him with relocation costs as well as rent, which allowed him to take the position. He moved on November 27, 2012 and started his new job on December 3, 2012. This client stated he would not have been able to accept employment if not for the services from AFWD and our quick response to his needs. He and his wife both were very grateful for the opportunity to be able to relocate and continue working in his specialized field.

On November 26, 2012 another dislocated worker from Oroville Power was offered a position as a Utility Worker for Covanta in Merced, CA. This individual received rental assistance which enabled him to accept the employment. These new positions made possible through the assistance of Butte AFWD.

Skyway House Workshops

A Job Seeker Workshop was provided at the *Skyway House Men's Residential Treatment Facility* by Chico One-Stop Career Advisors. This facility is housed in a tranquil location outside of Chico. It's surrounded by orchards and is secluded to provide a healing environment for their residents. The Skyway House Men's Residential Treatment Facility develops individualized treatment plans supported by the 12-Step Recovery Model. Along with treatment services that leads to long life recovery, the residential facility also provides supplementary services which includes employment readiness.



In a bold effort to provide best practice employment readiness services, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. has begun to implement Job Seeker Workshops to provide employment readiness skills for the residents of Skyway House. On December 19, 2012, Jill Ghirardelli and Lisa Scott provided an extensive overview of WIA services offered at the One-Stop to 17 participants. Many of the residents weren't aware of WIA services and were surprised to learn that there was an agency providing job search services. The Career Center Advisors defined Universal Services and Intensive Services offered through the WIA Program.

Career Center Advisors presented samples of the Chico-One Stop job listing and how to locate the listing via the One-Stop website. The Career Center Advisors also guided participants through various job search websites to introduce this form of job search. Participants were offered opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions relating to employment readiness. One participant stated "I need to know what to tell an employer about my felony." Participants were given information regarding felon friendly employers within Butte county. A series of three more workshops will be conducted at the facility that will address this concerning issue. It was clearly evident that the residents have an interest in becoming job ready and some stated they couldn't wait to complete the workshops provided by Alliance for Workforce Development Inc.



Butte College CNA's

On Wednesday December 12, 2012, the Fall Class of Butte College CNAs graduated from their nine week program. A total of fourteen graduating students, were sponsored by the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. The students spent the training time in the classroom and at nursing facilities practicing their clinical skills. There they provided nursing and nursing related services to residents, maintained a homelike environment, protected and promoted resident rights and assisted the patients to maintain as much of their independence as possible. Students also provided routine care to patients by spending maximum time in the room with the patient, maintaining a neat and clean ward, obtaining specimens, weights, and vital signs of patients, administering injections and conducted medicinal intakes. Reporting of patient status was also required by students to the senior doctor on site.

In early December representatives from AFWD met with the CNA class to assist them with resume construction and interview skills. Students were also given a listing of prospective employers that are currently interested in hiring CNA's. Within a week after graduation, nine graduates had established employment within one nursing facility and the other five were in the interview process with high hopes of success!





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On The Job Training

Antonio Ramos came to AFWD in November of 2011 after he was part of a substantial layoff at Plumbing Supply Group. There he had worked as a customer service representative for four years and was eager to pursue a new career. Antonio had many transferable skills, including being bilingual, but was still finding it difficult securing full time employment. Between our Business Service team and our Career Center Advisors, we were able to connect Antonio with a new local startup company whom were in the interview process and was offered a position.

Antonio entered into the On The Job Training position with PV Depot which is an internet based company that markets PhotoVoltaic panels, more commonly referred to as solar panels. Antonio is learning the complicated Photovoltaic industry and works full time in the call center as a Telemarketing Sales Representative earning \$10 per hour. Since July, Antonio has become very familiar with the solar industry and is enjoying his new career path and has hopes to grow with the new business.

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