

# Community Coordinator

## Report

Lassen County

JANUARY-MARCH

2014

### Fire Suppression Career Exploration Event

In January, the Business and Career Network was the venue for a two day Career Exploration event presented by the US Forest Service and CAL FIRE. Representatives from both organizations gave an overview of the potential career opportunities in the area of firefighting. Attendees were given the opportunity of asking the representatives various questions from what the fire line can be like to the physical and mental requirements it takes to be a firefighter working on a team. Through the course of this event a valuable network was established with employment announcements being sent via email to the attendees.

Those in attendance learned how to apply for firefighting positions, and what information to include on resumes and applications. It was the perfect setting for both organizations to promote their services and meet with individuals who were interested in pursuing a career in firefighting. AFWD, Inc. assisted with providing job seeker services and assisted applicants achieve their career goals.

The Lassen National Forest Service is one of many larger employers in Lassen County and due to the recent drought conditions in California the Forest Service has been putting together a Fire Suppression Team in anticipation of the up-coming fire season.



### Calendar of Events

#### Resume Writing Workshop

April 2, 2014

10:30am-12:00pm

#### Interviewing Skills Workshop

April 9, 2014

April 23, 2014

10:00am-12:00pm

### Attention Job Seekers

#### Job Fair 2014

April 12, 2014

Lassen County Fair  
Grounds  
Jensen Hall

*Attitude is a little thing that  
makes a Big difference...*



## 2014 Labor Law Update Workshop

On January 15, 2014 twenty-two business owners and community members attended the 2014 Labor Law Update workshop at the Business and Career Network. Attorney Mark A. Vegh from the law offices of Wells, Small, Fleharty & Weil, shared his employment law expertise with this attentive and inquisitive group.

### Some of the topics discussed:

- Wage and Hour*
- Discrimination and Retaliation Protections*
- Immigrant Protections*
- Leaves and Benefits*
- Background Checks*
- Independent contractors*
- Workers Compensation*

Mr. Vegh provided information on required postings, notices and covered information on the laws that apply to your business. The workshop was well received and the Lassen County business community was very thankful to have a local workshop to help them stay up to date on the most current labor laws.

Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) holds the annual Labor Law Update Workshop to keep the local business community informed of recent changes in California Labor Law that may affect how they conduct their business. All businesses had the opportunity to order the 2014 Labor Law poster and required notices. For more information on business and human resource services please visit our website [www.afwd.org](http://www.afwd.org)



# AFWD One-Stop Statistics

## Lassen Visitors

**11,874**

## AFWD Business Services

Business Served	1,693
Service Provided	8,778
Positions Filled	2,407
Training Assistance	370
<b>Program Services</b>	

### Total enrollments P/Y 2013-2014

Adult	392
Dislocated Worker	374
Youth	178
Employed	643

## Unemployment Rate

Butte 10.0%	Plumas 14.3%
Lassen 12.5%	Sierra 13.6%
Modoc 13.2%	

## Dollar General comes to Susanville

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) staff at the Lassen Business and Career Network worked closely with the Dollar General hiring team to staff their new location in Susanville. Potential employees were supported throughout the hiring process with application assistance and pre-interviews by AFWD staff. On February 25, 2014 the Dollar General team met face to face with enthusiastic applicants to complete the final interview and job offer process.

We are delighted to congratulate the new manager, Dave Sullivan, assistant managers, lead sales associates and sales associates on their new positions. Dollar General is proud that its employees find career success and personal gratification by making a difference in the lives of their customers and in the communities they serve.

Dollar General Corporation, a nationwide chain of variety stores is headquartered in Goodlettsville, Tennessee and operates in over 11,000+ stores throughout the United States. The company has stores in Quincy, Chester and Alturas and will soon be opening their Susanville store in early April 2014.



"Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy."—Norman Vincent Peale

## Specialized Workshop

Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. has teamed up with Lassen Community College to assist some eligible participants in the Fire Science program in obtaining their Fire Technology certificate and become employed as a Wildland Firefighters.

Apart from assisting them with the cost of training equipment, the students teamed up with their Career Center Advisor on seasonal and permanent job openings, resume writing and specific interview tips for the Fire industry. Participants met with Kim Keith, Career Center Advisor, Mike Rivas, former Captain of Cal Fire and current instructor at Lassen Community College and Chad Lawson, also an instructor at Lassen Community College, for a specialized interview workshop designed to give the participants helpful tips.

Many participants succeeded in being invited for an interview with Cal Fire and reported that they felt confident and prepared due to the additional assistance that was offered.



## Acknowledgement Well Deserved!

The Susanville Sunrise Rotary Foundation has honored Kim Keith, Lassen Career Center Advisor, with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Director Karen Grosz presented the award to Kim for her work with community youth. Kim has been involved with local Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts groups; she works with youth through Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc., and has hosted many exchange students through the Rotary Exchange Program.

Grosz stated “Kim has given generously of her time and talent...your life exemplifies the Rotary motto ‘service above self’ as well as the humanitarian and educational objectives of the Rotary Foundation.”

- Congratulations, Kim!



“Make a pact with yourself today to not be defined by your past. Sometimes the greatest thing to come out of all your hard work isn't what you get for it, but what you become for it. Shake things up today!

Be You...Be Free...Share.”

— [Steve Maraboli](#)

# This Quarter's Success Stories

## The Webster

Larry Webb was enrolled in our job seeker program after the local power plant company, Honey Lake Power closed in November of 2011. As power plants are few and far between in Northern California, Larry knew that he would need to change career paths and look at re-training. Working closely with his Career Counselor, Larry took advantage of workshops, individual employment plans and comprehensive training plans.

Although the path to a career change took some turns, Larry and his Career Counselor decided that a Correctional Supervising Cook would give him the challenge he was looking for as well as the stability he and his family deserved. Intensive research and networking ensued and Larry's hard work paid off. His determined and humorous personality served him well. He was offered full time employment at High Desert State Prison as a Correctional Supervising Cook and started on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Larry said "I appreciate the diligence and the teamwork I experienced working with my Career Center Advisor at the Business and Career Network. I am looking forward to a new start".



## A Career Boost with an On-the-Job Training

Teri (Stacy) Trehal came to the Lassen Business and Career Network for help with her job search. She and her father had recently relocated from the state of Nevada. She had completed one not very successful interview with the Lassen County Sheriff's Department. Stacy took advantage of the resume writing and interviewing skills workshops, and the computers available in the resource lab. She developed a resume that highlighted her skills and customer service work experience.

Stacy was referred to several positions and had the opportunity to interview for several positions, including the new Big 5 Sporting Goods store. She was hired by Big 5 for their store set-up and opening, but Stacy knew that the hours would eventually become part-time. Her resume was also forwarded to a customized recruitment with Skyline Self Storage. She met with Skyline and they were impressed with her demeanor and customer service experience. The company believed she would require some job specific training to be successful in their business.

The AFDW Business Service Representatives discussed the possibility of an On-the-Job training (OJT) with Skyline Storage and they were in agreement. Stacy started her OJT with Skyline in January and is steadily learning, improving, and blending well with Skyline Self Storage. Skyline will be working with a new rental vehicle company and will be expanding their services. They hope to utilize Stacy's newly acquired job skills to assist with that expansion.

