

Community Coordinator Report

Lassen County
OCTOBER – DECEMBER
2015

MarkUBiz- Social Media Training

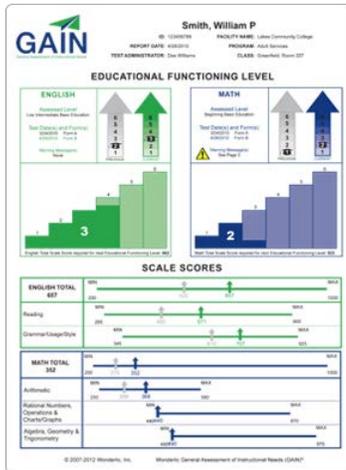
Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. (AFWD) Youth Program sponsored a Social Media and Online Personal Branding workshop in collaboration with MarkUBiz in October. MarkUBiz is an online marketing consulting firm based out of Reno, Nevada. They shared that according to CareerBuilder, 51% of employers who research job candidates on social media indicated content on these sites has a negative impact on hiring of candidates. They reviewed the need to have a great personal brand by incorporating a professional headshot photo, emphasizing core values and including a professional email.

Suggestions for developing a website and the use of a blog to educate perspective employers on who the job seeker is and what they are about were made. The webinar reviewed the importance of social media in regards to today's job search; things to avoid and things that can help you. This training was shared with partnering agencies such as Lassen Community College, Butte and Lassen County Social Services, as well as staff in all six servicing counties of AFWD.

For more information on MarkUBiz please visit: <http://markubiz.com/>



Lassen Youth Improve their Basic Education Skills



Assessing basic education skills is one of the requirements of all Youth Program applicants. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) uses the Wonderlic, General Assessment of Instructional Needs (GAIN) to meet this requirement. This program year 80% of Lassen Youth participants enrolled have tested basic education skills deficient prior to enrollment. This means their scores in either Language Arts or Math were below a 9th grade equivalent.

These Youth face a variety of barriers such as learning disabilities, have been in trouble with the law or never finished school. The Lassen office AFWD staff takes an individual approach to each Youth that struggles with Math and Language Arts skills. First, each GAIN is examined to access where the Youth needs support. Tutoring is offered for each Youth, but if they choose not to work with a tutor the Youth Career Center Advisor (CCA) provides independent study

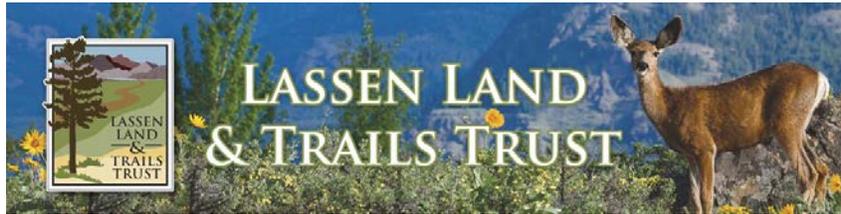
options related to the deficient subject areas. If the participant needs help with word problems, they are shown strategies to solve them and are provided practice problems. If reading comprehension is an area of need, the client is given practice readings and questions to answer. They might also be shown online instructional videos they can watch.

Youth with learning disabilities give authorization to obtain their Individual Educational Plan (IEP) from the school they attended. The CCA utilizes any special testing accommodations noted on the IEP to further assist the Youth with the outcome on a retest of the GAIN. These special accommodations may include the use of a calculator, having the test read aloud, or allowing unlimited time to test. Providing special accommodations along with individual instruction to a learning disabled Youth relieves testing anxieties; providing a more comfortable environment to aid in their success.

Utilizing these types of strategies has had a positive outcome for the Lassen Youth this program year. Of the Youth who tested basic education skills deficient at enrollment, 80% of those Youth have raised one of their scores by at least one functioning level.



National Emergency Grant/Temporary Job Creation



Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) received National Emergency Grant (NEG) funds to provide public and non-profit entities with assistance for temporary help to work on drought-related projects. Client eligibility requirements include layoffs, hours reduced due to drought conditions or having been unemployed 15 out of the last 26 weeks and living in a drought affected area.

A four member work crew successfully completed four major drought related projects identified at the beginning of the program. In mid-September additional funding became available, which enabled extensions for this crew and Lassen Land & Trails Trust to improve many other public sites requiring various defensible space clearing, water flow improvement and wildlife habitat preservation.

Lassen Land and Trails Trust partnered with California Fish and Wildlife working on the Honey Lake Wildlife Area focusing on clearing vegetation from approximately 250 water structures for pre-emergent weed treatment, and cleaning approximately one mile of ditch for water conveyance resulting in improved flow of water resources. Another partnership was with US Forest Service, Eagle Lake District working in critical habitat areas within the district removing encroaching conifers from aspen enhancement areas, and removal of fencing in various areas in preparation of winter snow.

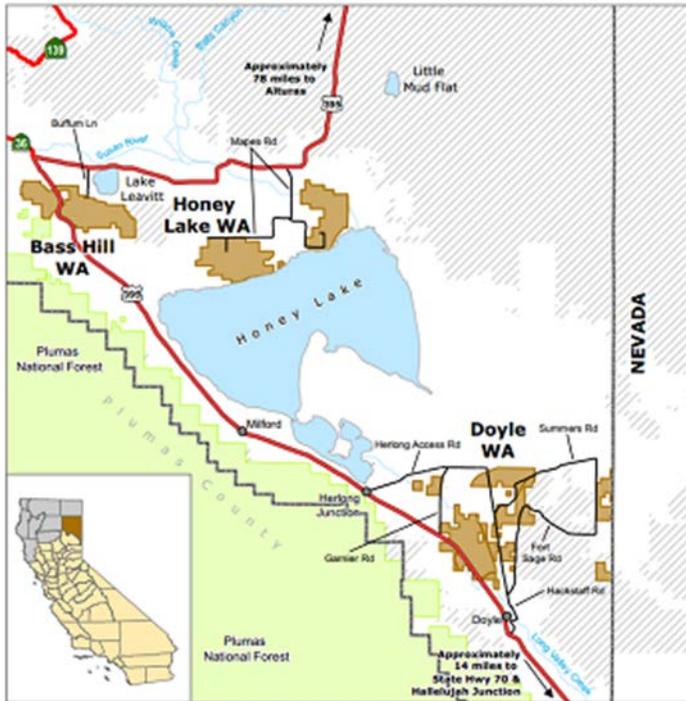


California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Amy Holmen, LL&TT Land Manager stated, "This NEG drought crew provided invaluable support to Lassen Land & Trails Trust during a time that staff and volunteer resource were especially strained, allowing numerous projects to continue that would not have otherwise been completed". Amy continued with, "This program put four men to work that were willing and able to complete tasks for the Trust and partners, enhancing on-going projects while returning resources to the local community. I hope that programs like this continue to be offered to organizations and agencies that are able to utilize this help, as the Trust was able to".



Pictures of the drought crew working on projects for Lassen Land & Trails Trust.



This Quarter's Success Stories

Employment after Military Service

Moving from active military duty to Veteran status is a significant change. After serving over seven years of military service, Derek Didisse struggled to find long-term and self-sufficient income. He knew he needed to take control of his career path and create a plan for his future.

Derek sought the advice of his Career Center Advisor (CCA), who assisted him in translating his military experience and attained skills to civilian employment. Together, they created a vocational plan to pursue a career in law enforcement. He worked with his CCA to interview for a Correctional Officer position. Derek interviewed and was soon offered employment as a Correctional Officer with the Lassen County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff Department was interested in hiring Derek, and through an ongoing partnership with Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Derek was evaluated and it was determined that he would be a good participant in an On-the-Job (OJT) training placement.



Correctional Officer training is a 20 week program the Department has developed. Derek had a series of skills to become knowledgeable in during this time frame. He received monthly monitoring reports on his progress by his CCA and Business Service Representative (BSR). Derek successfully completed his training the beginning of December 2015. Derek's Supervisor Officer, Gray commented, "Derek is an asset to this department."

Great job Derek, Congratulations!



A Longtime Dream Finally Realized

Rob was referred to Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) by the Lassen County Sheriff's Department. He had been working as a Sheriff's Security Officer at the Courthouse, which was not a sworn position. Rob has had a longtime dream of becoming a sworn Law Enforcement Officer, and had been working his way toward his goal for many years. He took many classes with a Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement emphasis. He even started training in Peace Officer Standard and Training (POST) academy, but unfortunately the academy was cancelled. Rob kept up his momentum and never gave up.

He recently applied for a position with Lassen County Sheriff Department as a Sheriff Deputy Trainee, and he was chosen to attend the Butte Law Enforcement Academy to obtain his POST certificate. Rob was delighted to finally have this opportunity. He met with a Career Center Advisor, and was deemed an acceptable candidate for training assistance.

Rob attended the Butte Law Enforcement Academy beginning in July 2015. He worked extremely hard, and was able to keep up with the "grueling" schedules to meet his goal. He completed the twenty-three week POST academy and as a Lassen County Sheriff Department Sheriff Deputy Trainee, he was honored to wear the Lassen County Sheriff Deputy uniform during graduation. He had his badged pinned on by Sheriff Dean Growden, and is now a full-fledged Sheriff Deputy for Lassen County!

Congratulations on finally reaching your goal, Rob!



Deputy Sheriff Rob Steen & Sheriff Dean Growden



Undersheriff John Mineau, Deputy Sheriff Alex Meier,
Deputy Sheriff Rob Steen & Sheriff Dean Growden

AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics



Lassen County Visitors

10,180

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	731
Service Provided	3,383
Positions Filled	797
Training Assistance	88

Program Services

Total enrollments

Adult	127
Dislocated Worker	100
Youth	40
Employed	136

Unemployment Rate

Butte	6.7%	Nevada	5.2%
Lassen	6.9%	Plumas	9.9%
Modoc	8.1%	Sierra	6.6%

