

# Community Coordinator Report

Nevada County  
OCTOBER – DECEMBER  
2015

## Job Connections in Nevada County's Resource Center

With Nevada County's Resource Center up and running customers have been provided assistance in making job connections in the local area. Assistance with cover letter's, resume writing and online applications helped many of our clients find success right here in our Resource Center.

A customer named Rick Schraub of Nevada City had three interviews during the month of December and decided to take a management position as Operations Supervisor of Ticket Sales at Sugar Bowl in the Truckee area. Rick said, his job is "Great people, a great organization...with a season pass for me and my three kids."

Rick will be managing fifteen people, working six days a week with lots of overtime to support his family. In Rick's words, "Grass Valley's Business and Career Network, is a stepping stone to his success, and he wouldn't have been able to do it without the resources the center provides".



## AFWD, Inc. Staff Updates

### **Resource and Referral Coordinator for the Grass Valley office!**



Malwina was born and raised in Poland. She met her husband in Ohio during a cultural exchange program she was participating in and then traveled a bit before deciding to settle in the USA. Eventually her husband decided to join the United States Air Force and they ended up in California. Malwina says *"We were welcomed into this area by some incredible people. I was impressed by how much people do for others here and I have fallen in love with the community in this rural region."* She then started volunteering at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center at Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, CA and during her time there she realized she enjoyed and wanted to help people find a better life and connect them with resources available for them during the hard times. She went back to school and graduated with a Human Services degree in 2014. She has now joined the AFWD team in Grass Valley as the new Resource and Referral Coordinator. She has been completing her training with Nevada County Manager, Kristine Farrell and is *"Excited to be a part of the AFWD team and to be able to give back to this amazing community."*

**Welcome Malwina!**

### **Resource and Referral Coordinator for the Truckee office!**



Sheryl was born in Bellflower, California, in a hospital her grandfather built. She grew up in Orange County by the beach and Disneyland. She met her husband in high school and has been married for 43 years! She currently loves teaching skiing, dancing, and training her dogs for obedience, agility, herding and conformation; also mountain biking, soccer, softball and gardening. Sheryl says *"I love working with people, and when I see the lightbulb come on it makes me so happy and I love to work with people because I find it so rewarding when I can improve their life or give them knowledge that will help make them happier."* Sheryl the new Resource and Referral Coordinator for the Truckee office and will be assisting customers with their employment needs, helping employers post jobs and find qualified candidates and make some connections in the Truckee area. Sheryl has had the pleasure to work for *Fullerton Orthopedic Surgery* as a Front Desk and Back Office Aid and for *Squaw Valley Ski Resort* as the Ski School Administrator for 30 years, along with managing the Guest Services and Ice Rink in the summer months. The Career Center Advisor out of the Sierraville Business and Career Network office referred her to this opportunity when she was looking for employment. Sheryl has been training with Kristine Farrell to learn her new position. Sheryl says *"I'm really excited to be part of this team. I find it so exhilarating. All the knowledge that our team members hold is so inspirational to me. I look forward to working by their side and eventually being able to pay it forward."*

**Welcome Sheryl!**

## New Career Center Advisor to work in the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program in Nevada County!



Sarah McBride the newest Career Center Advisor in Nevada County always had a passion for people and graduated from a community college before pursuing her Bachelors at Southeastern University. After graduating with her B.S. in Psychology she spent the next two years working as an Academic Success Coach helping local students overcome barriers to their education and eventual employment. Sarah states *"Through those students I learned I was passionate about helping clients overcome barriers to success."*

She went on to complete her Master's in Clinical Counseling at Eastern University. Sarah now resides with her husband an Airman in the United States Air Force at Beale Air Force base in California, where she is now enjoying her role as a Career Center Advisor and excited to be fulfilling her goal of *"empowering clients to succeed."*

## Nevada Staff Attend the National Institute of Corrections Training!

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. Youth Career Center Advisor (CCA) Gem Platte and CCA Sarah McBride, attended the National Institute of Corrections training to become certified Reentry Employment Specialists in Reno, Nevada. All instructors were Offender Workforce Development specialists and included representatives from U.S. Probation, Washoe County Sheriff's Office and from the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The staff learned how to implement the Reentry Employment Specialist (RES) model, which emphasizes collaborating, communicating, and creating with partnering agencies to generate success for the offender community.

The staff successfully learned how to collaborate more effectively with local law enforcement personnel through addressing job-readiness and effective job searching with clients. This training addressed the immediate and long-term barriers that clients face when reentering the workforce. Connections were made with local and national resources to provide additional supportive services to help eliminate or lessen barriers to clients reentering the workforce. Sarah used her new resources to enhance the Job-Readiness workshop that she presents with her co-worker Kali Steele (CCA) at the Nevada County Probation Office. Gem and Sarah look forward to implementing the knowledge and resources presented in this training to further support their clients on the journey to reentry and employment!



## Youth Client finds exciting new career!

Colby was referred to the Youth Program at the Nevada County Business and Career Network by his probation officer. Colby found himself with some barriers. He was incarcerated and served out his sentence. When he was released, he found himself homeless, without job or savings, unable to return to his social group and facing a huge fine for his crimes. Unless he began payments, his driver's license would be revoked and getting a job in the rural area he lived in would become much harder.

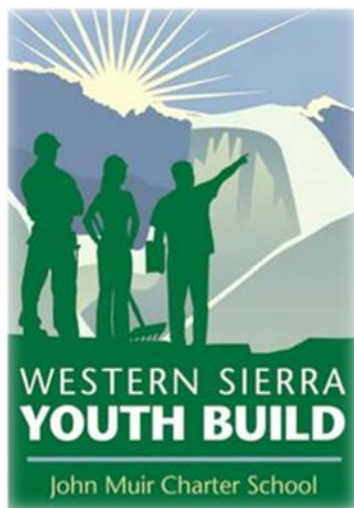


Colby was assessed and enrolled in the Youth program. He worked one-on-one with his Career Center Advisor to assess his situation and determine his new direction and goals. He demonstrated persistence in the program, as well as partner agencies programs, Community Recovery Resources (COR) for substance abuse counseling. Colby was able to create a professional resume and gain work readiness preparation in order to begin his job search. When he did start looking for work the progress was slow, especially because of his felony charge. With hard work, he found an exciting job in an industry that he felt passionate about. He started work with Casa Di Terra, a specialty 'Green' building company that creates artistic and sustainable landscapes and architecture. Colby is a shining example of how the Youth Program at AFWD provides critical support for our youth populations.





## Youth Client Graduates from John Muir Charter School!



Anna Davis (pictured left) first came to the program early this year as a high school dropout. Moreover, she was faced with unstable familial support. She required help identifying a program where she could earn her high school diploma, as well as benefit from positive peer support and strong mentoring relationships from teachers and staff. Together with the One-Stop team, she joined Western Sierra Youth Build (WSYB) and was enrolled in the WIOA Youth program. Anna received guidance in school, tutoring and strong support from a collaborative team. Anna excelled in her classes and participated in learning construction trades after classes. At times, Anna's attendance waivered, but continued collaborative support helped her to keep on track.

Anna persevered and diligently worked her way through school. She graduated almost exactly a year later, in December 2015. Additionally she made strong connections with her teachers, staff and fellow students. She volunteered for school events and earned her driver's license. According to Anna, her new relationships have helped her through many of her struggles and have changed her outlook. During her time in the Youth program, she received assistance to create a resume, attended workshops. She received job coaching and various incentives to keep her on track, as well as school uniforms and work attire. She recently found employment at a local retailer and is gaining valuable work experience. Congratulations to Anna, who is a shining example of the achievements possible with positive support, hard work and dedication required to achieve goals.

## Business's Services

### Championing Local Company, 'Fodder Works'

Several times a year a handful of Nevada County businesses are highlighted by the Nevada County Economic Resource Council (ERC) to receive team support from contributing local professionals and industry specialists. Business Service Representative (BSR) Christine Hoxsie from Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) Inc., contributed to this initiative in December by "championing" local company Fodder Works on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Fodder Works manufactures and sells fully automated systems that grow feed at an accelerated rate, used in both large scale farming/agricultural operations as well as small family farms. AFWD has been working with Fodder Works since coming to the Nevada County area. Supporting local businesses with the ERC is just one of the many ways AFWD is partnering and working with local agencies throughout Nevada Counties.



*BSR Christine Hoxsie introducing Fodder Works to an assembled group of industry professionals and business mentors. Far left is President and CEO Curt Chittock, and General Manager Kyle Chittock.*



*Christine Hoxsie w/ Ray Byers Jr. of Byers' Leafguard, Fodder works representatives and Jon Gregory with the Economic Resource Council.*

## Alliance for Workforce Development staff presents at local Nevada County Community Leadership Institute (NCCLI) class



On November 2015, Program Manager Kristine Farrell and BSR Christine Hoxsie were guest presenters to the Nevada County Community Leadership Institute (NCCLI). NCCLI is a series of one-day classes that look into a variety of issues, topics and institutions that impact Nevada County.

On the day that highlighted “Business Industry and Economic Development”, Kristine Farrell and Christine presented. They discussed the local economy, business needs and labor market statistics for the Nevada County area and surrounding areas and the impact of such on Nevada County. Dozens of local business representatives from both the private sector and County government were present.

## Layoff turns positive for a local Grass Valley Client

Brandy Gutierrez was referred to the Business and Career Network in Grass Valley, CA from a Rapid Response AFWF held at Miranda Technologies for major layoffs and department closures due to a merger with Grass Valley Group and Belden Brand. Brandy started working at Miranda technologies in 2008, as both an administrative assistant and a service order clerk in the shipping and receiving department. She thoroughly enjoyed her position and was very disappointed by the layoff.

She wanted to find a similar position, but found that the jobs she was qualified for based on her experience were requiring a higher level of education. Though she had a wide range of skills, she was not an expert in any one area. Brandy was enrolled in the WIOA program and started working with a CCA to assess her skillset to help determine where to focus her efforts. Due to the nature of her layoff the CCA determined she was eligible for funding from the Employment Development Departments (EDD), TAA program, to assist with a training program. The assessment work was completed with her CCA and Brandy decided that taking a bookkeeping course through Occupational Skills Center Computer Training would be her best course of action. Her CCA assisted her with completing a proposal for EDD's TAA program as well as assisting her with "Keep Your Home CA" paperwork.

Once the training was approved and Brandy started her course, the CCA worked with her, monitoring her progress assisting with questions and concerns as they arose. As the end of her training approached, she worked with her CCA to update her resume, brush up on her interviewing skills, and started applying for jobs. A month before she had even completed her training she received an offer from 49er Communications, a local two-way radio dealer. She was pleased to accept the position. Within three weeks of successfully completing her AIBP Bookkeeper Certification, Brandy started her position as Sales, Shipping and Support Specialist at 49er Communications, where she is happy and using her new Bookkeeping skills!

Congratulations Brandy!







# AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

***Nevada County Visitors***  
**6,172**

**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%



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