



Submitted by: **Janelle Hardig, Business Services Coordinator**

**January 1 to March 30, 2010**



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

**Plumas Work Connection**

**1953 E. Main St., Quincy, CA 95971**

**(530) 283-1606**

[www.aworkforce.org](http://www.aworkforce.org)

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On February 22, 2009 almost a year after the Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), announced the lay-offs of approximately 120 employees, the Small Log Mill will re-open. The Large Log Mill will be reducing the shifts from 2 shifts to 1 shift in May, 2010. After some of the employees from Large Log Mill assume their new positions in the Small Log Mill, approximately 35 positions will still need to be filled. While it is not known who or how many Large Log Mill workers will assume new positions in the Small Log Mill, it is still good news that new positions will open up for the Small Log Mill workers affected by the May 4, 2009 lay-offs. If the demand for more lumber rises, the number of shifts in the Large Log mill may increase.

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On February 23, 2010 Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. attended training in Business Retention and Expansion. The training put business relationships first to better receive feedback on their needs. We learned how to identify struggling businesses, how to put effective teams together to address the different needs of struggling businesses.



Outreach to businesses is the first step to building trusting relationships. When businesses share information about their needs the information can be compared with our services and referral services. Assisting businesses with referrals and services can be crucial to business livelihood.

The current economic situation is causing business owners to explore creative ways to keep their business going. Some business' are evolving with the economy. There is a proactive approach to enhancing their business.

The most important tool AFWD can use is the feedback from our local businesses. This is the first step. Feedback can tell AFWD what services are needed and what the most emergent needs are.

Laith Wardi, CEcD, President of ExecutivePulse, Inc.

## *Working with our Foster Youth*

Plumas Work Connection had the opportunity on February 22, 2010 to be present at a Plumas County Foster Youth career planning workshop facilitated by Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) and the foster youths Independent Living Program. AFWD's Youth Program was introduced to the SIFE youth and the foster youth also attending the presentation. The foster youth were very excited about the program and several of the youth started the eligibility process for the AFWD Youth Program. Members of SIFE asked for AFWD Work Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program brochures and flyers to hand out to the youth that are in the SIFE mentoring program. The SIFE youth are actively making referrals for the (WIA) Youth Program. This partnership with the SIFE and Foster Youth ILP is valuable to AFWD and it's program. Joining the workforce is a big reality for anyone, AFWD's WIA Youth Program assists eligible youth and makes it easier assisting with graduating with a diploma or achieving their GED. Other services lead to exploring careers and referral resources for secondary education or assisting with job seeking and job placement.



*A Not-For-Profit Corporation*

The new year brought The Federal Technology Center to Plumas Work Connection another useful workshop: January 28, 2010 Getting Started with Government Contracting. The attendance is getting larger as businesses recognize the importance of contracting with the Federal Government. The information included in the course gives businesses the tools to obtain the numbers and registrations needed to contract with the Federal Government. The benefits of contracting with the government is the ability to respond to Requests For Proposals (RFPs). Businesses can find RFPs on this web site <https://www.fbo.gov/>.

If you missed out on the January 28th class don't worry. Plumas Work Connection has staff available to assist you with the following steps. Ask for Brent Cunningham, Gina Hayes or Brendan Norris for assistance. Find out how to do the following:

**Why and how to obtain a DUNS Number**

**How to research your NAICS and SIC Codes**

**Why registering in Central Contractor Registration (CCR) is so important**

**What "ORCA" is**

**Reporting requirements for small businesses**

**How to apply for federal certifications through the Small Business Administration (SBA):  
8(a) Business Development Program, and Historically Underutilized Business  
Zone (HUBZone) Program**

**How to apply for State of California certifications: Small Business, Disabled Veterans  
Business Enterprise (DVBE), and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program**

**How to search for government contracting opportunities**

Come by and see one of our staff to assist you with the process of contracting with the Federal Government at 1953  
E. Main St., Quincy, CA 95971 or  
call us at (530) 283-1606.

# Working with our Partners

January 12, 2010 Feather River College TRIO Advisor invited Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) to present the Work Investment Act (WIA) youth program at a special career development meeting with Plumas Charter School Education Specialists. The goal of the meeting was to develop a Career Exploration requirement for graduation. Students can choose from the following categories: Assessment/Personal Development, Skill Building, Experiential, and Self Marketing. Plumas Charter Students that are eligible for the WIA Youth Program could earn credits for their participation toward their high school diploma. Four Charter Schools attended the curriculum development day, Quincy, Greenville, Portola and Susanville. AFWD looks forward to working with our partners and with our local schools to expand the youth opportunities.

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Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) employees attended the tenth annual CWA Youth conference January 19-21 in Long Beach California. The conference brought together many unique groups including staff from youth service agencies, educators, youth program designers, and youth. The conference featured over 40 workshops and 5 plenary sessions.

Staff attended numerous workshops on counseling, teaching soft skills, rebuilding our communities, going green and so much more. The three days were fast paced and filled full of information to help us better serve our youth and our communities.



# BUSINESS SHOWCASE

Plumas Work Connection is recognizing and showcasing local Plumas County Businesses that start up in there trying times or have an extraordinary success story.

This quarter Plumas Work Connection is excited by the new business



start-up of 'Traci's Sweet Surprises'. Traci Downey started her business at the fair grounds in theTulsa Scott Pavillion building.

Traci is moving to a new location **503 Main St., Quincy, CA 95971** and will be open April 11th.

*There will be a Grand Opening on April 15th from 10am-2 pm.*

There will be a drawing for 2 gift certificates from 'Traci's Sweet Surprises' and two gift certificates from 'Southern Accent'.

We have sampled Traci's cakes here at the Plumas Work Connection. The samples were a great way to advertise and now she is very busy with cake orders. We look forward to working with Traci and her business needs.

## *Success Story*

A successful Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) client and affected employee by the lay-off from Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), small log mill closure in May of 2009 has come so far in our program she has reached and completed her goal.. Having worked as an equipment operator at SPI to finding a career in a different industry, our client was determined to make herself sustainable. We discussed different training options with her and decided on a career in law enforcement.

She enrolled in the Butte College Law Enforcement Academy. AFWD assisted our client with a portion of the training costs such as uniforms and other required items related to the field of training she entered into.

Our client was proactive in her job search from the time she started training until she found employment. She traveled on weekends to complete interviews and ride-alongs for several different counties in California. She completed her training in the end of December 2009. She started full time employment for the Plumas County Sheriff's Department here in Quincy, CA, earning a sustainable wage in February 2010.

Our client was able to come to terms with her layoff, recognize an opportunity to update her skills and overcame adversity to reach her goal. This is the reason she is the Plumas Work Connection's success story.

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The American Recover and Reinvestment Act has been received in Plumas County and other counties in the form of grants. One of the current grants Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. is partnering with local agencies is the Clean Energy 1A and 2A grant. This grant allows eligible individuals to obtain a certification in clean energy construction. The courses are divided according to the existing skill level of the proposed student. The certification should assist the student in obtaining a job in the career of clean energy construction. Currently Plumas Work Connection is screening for the next round of eligible students. If you are interested in determining if you are eligible, please contact Brent Cunningham, Tina Stetler or Gina Hayes for more information 1953 E. Main St., Quincy, CA 95971 or by phone (530) 283-1606.