

Community Coordinator Report

Plumas County

APRIL – JUNE
2016

Annual Job Fairs

Graeagle & Quincy

The Business and Career Network hosted our **20th annual** job fair this spring located in Graeagle, CA on April 4th and Quincy, CA on April 5th. Employers set up in advance to prepare for job seekers. In Quincy, even before the doors opened, there were job seekers with resumes in hand ready to meet with employers and complete standard applications on site.

Several jobseekers were dressed in interview attire and participated in informal interviews during both afternoons. A number of youth also attended, giving them the opportunity to see how a job fair could be beneficial to them and also to view the professional world. They were also able to learn about the employment options available within their community. Most employers were actively hiring for current positions with others collecting applications for their applicant pool. The new manager of Sav Mor Foods and his team met with prospective employees for the Quincy store as well as a team from Holiday Market in Chester.

Feather River College (FRC), as always, was very accommodating in setting up the tables for local employers to take advantage of this opportunity to gather potential candidates. FRC also took part in meeting potential candidates. In Graeagle, the Graeagle Fire Department was equally obliging. Alliance for Workforce Development takes this opportunity to help local employers build a workforce, create an applicant pool, and meet and pre-screen job seekers.



Plumas Convening Sessions

NoRTEC partnered with Thomas P. Miller & Associates to bring businesses together and conduct a convening session titled “Building our Communities Workforce Discussion.” These meetings were a way to bring businesses together to discuss the state of the workforce at two locations in Plumas County. Employers attending these sessions in Quincy and Chester showed up to offer their experiences and observations to the group.

Some of the topics covered were:

- The most significant economic opportunities or challenges impacting business
- How businesses are addressing workforce challenges
- Types of employer support available
- Education and training requirements
- Access to general labor market data

The discussion was helpful in creating a strategy to meet the needs of businesses in the area. A large amount of input from business leaders was obtained in regards to what is currently working for their businesses and what areas are in need of improvement.

This information will be used to create a strategy to respond to the needs of businesses by providing services, programs, and assistance. Those in attendance shared valuable insights on their hiring needs as well as other challenges they face with bringing in new employees. Some of the highlights included teaching soft skills to younger workers and providing technical skills for more specialized jobs.

The participation in the discussion identified that employers are eager to discuss how to create a better workforce for the community. Overall, it was a very helpful meeting for the consultants running the session and those in attendance. Everyone was able to share ideas and areas of concern in order to bring positive suggestions and resolutions in a follow up session coming up in the fall.



Chester



Quincy

This Quarter's Success Stories

HARD WORK AND DEDICATION PAYS OFF!

Caroline Correira came to Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) in 2013 after the Employment Development Department (EDD) referred her. She was laid off from an office management position and suddenly found herself unemployed after nearly 20 years. Caroline job searched for several months before coming to the Plumas Business and Career Network (BCN) and meeting with a career center advisor (CCA). At that time, Caroline expressed an interest in attending the Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program through Feather River College (FRC). Together, with her CCA, they devised an employment plan.

The first step in her plan was to complete a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course and a Human Physiology course, which she did with flying colors. Hard work allowed her to gain acceptance into the nursing program. She started her LVN classes in August of 2013 and while attending she also managed to attain a fulltime job as a financial counselor with Plumas District Hospital (PDH). Juggling a full-time job with being a full-time student proved challenging, but Caroline's hard work paid off.

Her employer, PDH, was willing to work with her busy school schedule so she was able to work full-time as well as attend and excel in her LVN classes. In February 2016, Caroline moved from her position as a financial counselor to working in the medical clinic as an LVN, her end goal! Caroline is now ready to start her new career in a growing and challenging industry. Her employer is extremely happy with her performance and work ethic. She is grateful for the opportunity and assistance that AFWD has given her to help her sustain life long employment in a growing and progressive field.

Way to go, Caroline!



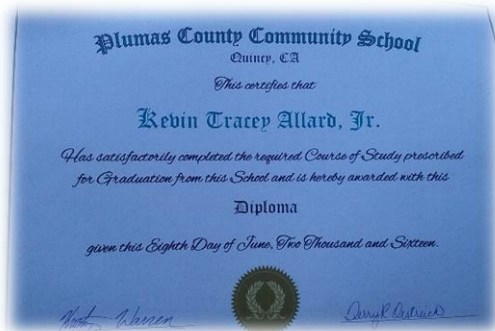
Rising above Adversity

Kevin Allard came to Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) to learn about what help our youth program may offer him on January 21, 2016. He was a high school drop-out who had been displaced from his native home in Oroville, California, due to the loss of an immediate family member. Kevin's immediate needs included assistance with earning his high school diploma and procuring part-time employment. While it may have been easier and what many would call the *path of least resistance* for Kevin to simply take his GED, it was of great importance to him to fulfill a promise that he had made to a late family member, by actually returning to high school and earning his diploma.

It didn't require a personality assessment to realize Kevin's awesome energy for life, generous nature, and optimistic attitude. Dynamic and animated, Kevin spreads joy and energy to all that he encounters and brings a certain excitement to the world around him.

February 3, 2016, Kevin was enrolled in Plumas County Community School where it was determined that he would need to obtain 66 credits to achieve his goal. The next issue to address would be employment. Kevin had applied and interviewed at a couple local area businesses, but was disappointed to find that he was not receiving any return calls from potential employers. Supportive Services, provided through AFWD's youth program, were able to provide Kevin with appropriate interview attire. Successful completion of the Interview Workshop aided him in feeling more confident and comfortable in interviews. This yielded fantastic results for Kevin. In March 2016, he was offered year-round employment working in the food industry.

To date, Kevin has been named Student of the Month, was elected Student President, and has earned his High School Diploma, all while working 25 hours per week at Round Table Pizza. This summer Kevin looks forward to moving into a rental property with a close friend and buying his first car with the money he has saved from working. Congratulations Kevin!



Youth Career Center Advisor, Jennifer Stetler!

Jennifer (Jenn) relocated to Plumas County in 2013 from Sacramento, where she had lived and worked for the California State Legislature for the preceding 9 years. She is an East Quincy resident who lives with two courageous cats, three unruly dogs and cares for her elderly grandparents.

In her spare time, Jenn enjoys furthering her studies in the field of animal science by participating in an online college program for animal behavior, animal psychology and animal therapy.

Since arriving in Plumas County, Jenn has had the pleasure of building business relationships through working for Plumas District Hospital as a Human Resources Specialist and her employment with Plumas County with both the Department of Mental Health where she provided direct patient care and working as a Benefits Assistance Counselor for the Department of Social Services.

Jenn has spent much time exploring and understanding the many facets of the Youth Program and is looking forward to overcoming challenges, helping our youth accomplish their goals and in attaining the satisfaction of success that will aid them for a lifetime.



AFWD Gets a New Face for the Adult Education Program

In March of 2016, Valerie Bourque joined Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD). Val has combined her business development experience and entrepreneurial skills to create successful ventures throughout her career.

As the founder of Reliable Software Company at the start of the personal computing age, she recognized the growth of a new industry. At the infancy of the internet, she brought many internet software technologies to the market through various software start-ups in Silicon Valley.

Shifting her focus onto more creative possibilities, Valerie left the fast paced life of the Silicon Valley for the serenity of the mountainous regions of Lake Almanor. She brings a wealth of both experience and insight to adaptive industries.

Joining AFWD in the non-profit sector, she is enjoying the opportunity to apply both experience and insight to this very important Adult Education Program.



Adult Education Block Grant Comes to Plumas and Sierra Counties

In January 2016, Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) was awarded grant funding through the Adult Education Block Grant Program (AEBG). Currently, the program is serving Plumas and Sierra Counties.

Through this grant, AFWD is able to provide a variety of training for adults who may require certification to further their current job, individuals re-entering the workforce, and the underemployed and unemployed. AEBG funding is designed for short term programs resulting in a certification.

The program offers the option of online training via accredited organizations, attendance at Feather River College, or other certification opportunities within classroom settings. Available training options assist individuals in the obtaining of a General Education Diploma (GED), CPR/AED certificate, certification in Information Technology and many others.

AFWD's program goal is to make participants more employable within Plumas and Sierra Counties. There are 21 participants presently enrolled in the Adult Education Program; many of which are well on their way to successfully obtaining pursued certifications, ultimately aiding them in attaining gainful employment within both Plumas and Sierra Counties.



Adult Education Training Program

Unemployed?
Under-employed?
Re-Entering the job market?
Need training to advance in your current job?
Looking for training to help get the job you deserve?

We may have the right training for you.



Providing Pathways to Success...

Success begins with Teamwork and Training. Let us help you find the training to get you to your next job. Whether you need Microsoft Office skills, computer training, medical care training or your GED preparation. Perhaps you need a certification to advance in your current job, we can help you. The training will be tailored to your needs and you will receive the support to help you overcome any difficulties you might have.

Contact AFWD's Adult Education Program today!
7 Quincy Junction Road, Quincy, CA 530 283 1606
305 S. Lincoln St., Sierraville, CA 96126 530 994 3349





AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Plumas County Visitors

3,163

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	1,567
Services Provided	9,982
Positions Filled	2,394
Training Assistance	197

Program Services

Total enrollments

Adult	168
Dislocated Worker	147
Youth	72
Employed	319

Unemployment Rate

Butte 5.9%	Nevada 4.3%
Lassen 6.0%	Plumas 8.1%
Modoc 6.7%	Sierra 7.0%



Alliance For
Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success