

Community Coordinator Report

Plumas County
JULY – SEPTEMBER
2015

Temporary Job Creation in Plumas County

In July The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) received National Emergency Grant funds to recruit temporary workers to assist public and non-profit entities with drought related projects. These positions were open to individuals who had been laid off or had hours reduced due to drought conditions or had been unemployed for 15 of the last 26 weeks and living in a drought affected area.

David Covey, who fit the criteria, applied for the program and was placed at the City of Portola as the Outreach Coordinator. David was responsible for creating his position, forming a courtesy notice for conducting weed abatement inspections, and identifying properties that needed attention to assist with the defensible space for fire suppression plan. David then created spreadsheets to keep track of his work. The City of Portola is so impressed with David's work they plan on using what he created moving forward.



Mr. Covey stated, "I created all of these documents from scratch. It has been a great challenge for me not to mention ALL I have learned. I am so thankful for having this opportunity".

August 2015 Employment Snapshot

Plumas County
Unemployment Rates*
(Unadjusted)

Plumas
7.6%

Labor Force
8,730

People Employed
8,070

People Unemployed
660

**Source California Employment
Development Department*

Labor Market Information Division

AFWD, Inc. welcomes a new Youth Career Center Advisor



AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Plumas County Visitors
831

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	436
Service Provided	1,303
Positions Filled	343
Training Assistance	71

Program Services

Total enrollments

Adult	92
Dislocated Worker	63
Youth	24
Employed	87

Unemployment Rate

Butte 6.9%	Nevada 5.2%
Lassen 6.4%	Plumas 7.6%
Modoc 7.3%	Sierra 6.5%

The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) would like to welcome Adoniis Gonzalez as a new Youth Career Center Advisor (CCA) with the Business & Career Network team in Plumas County. Adoniis was born in the Bay Area, but grew up in the Southern California area. Having experienced both regions of California, Adoniis has had the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life.

He enjoys exploring out-doors sceneries with family and learning new things about animals, health, and sports. Adoniis will assist the Youth in finding ways to reach short term and long term goals along with working with a variety of program related activities throughout Plumas County. His work experience background includes working with the Mojave Basin Youth Program in the San Bernardino County Area as well as becoming involved with Small trade businesses like Plumas County Glass. He is determined and excited for the opportunity to work with the Youth here at AFWD.

Plumas County Microenterprise Technical Assistance Program

Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc., (AFWD) was pleased to offer Plumas County Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs the opportunity to prosper from customized business assistance services made possible by the Plumas County Community Development Commission, Microenterprise Technical Assistance Program. Eligible small business (5 or fewer including the owner(s) and Entrepreneurs benefited from specialized assistance specific to starting, maintaining, or expanding their business with assistance in various stages of discovery and development. A variety of services offered included Financial and Legal Counseling, Business Plan Development, Management & Marketing assistance. Both one-on-one assistance and group workshops were made available.

During the past quarter Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. and the consultants have continued to monitor the ongoing progress of each business. One-on-one trainings continued and eligible businesses moved forward with their LivePlan account for their business plan development. The consultants assisted employers with their business plans ensuring their needs were met and questions were answered.

The last group training provided in July covered the legal aspect of business including Business Structure, Business Law, Licenses and Permits, Contracts, Insurance, and much more. The businesses were very appreciative of the assistance they received.

As the program ended and closing emails were sent, Rachael Gottas of Gottas Productions Studio responded

"Hi Joelle! Oh my gosh, I am so glad I ran into you the day I was pushing pavement to start my new venture! When I began, I had very little knowledge about starting a small business in the technological world. The program has been absolutely invaluable to me! The knowledge and encouragement of everyone that shared their expertise from business planning, accounting, marketing, to the Mastermind with Laurie Wann, is what has kept my drive to move forward without a paralyzing fear. I'm more ahead of the game, than I would have been without it. I truly feel I may have given up without it, now I just want to do it! Thank you all so much! Rachael Gottas"



Feather River College Career Day



Groups of students and instructors visited the AFWD booth to find out more about the Youth Program services that are offered by AFWD. Upon becoming aware of the services offered through AFWD students became interested, requesting more information on program requirements and eligibility. Staff members within AFWD proved to be resourceful in networking with different local agencies and made connections with instructors and students.



It was an inspirational fall day in Plumas County on September 14, 2015, filled with ambitions and hopes. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Youth Program Manager, Heather Alexander, Program Supervisor, Shellie Anderson along with Youth Program Supervisor, Kim Keith and Youth Career Center Advisor, Adoniis Gonzalez attended the Feather River College (FRC) Career Day and spoke to a multitude of high school students who anticipated attending college upon graduation.

Being present and engaging with students for the Career Day at FRC was beneficial for AFWD staff. Witnessing students take the time to participate in such an important event that affects their future is very worthwhile. AFWD looks forward in helping young adults become successful in pursuing their ultimate goals.

Juniors and seniors from high schools in Westwood, Chester, Greenville, Quincy, Portola, and Loyalton had the opportunity to listen to guest speaker Bert Gervais, who is recognized as one of the nation's top speakers on mentorship, using a positive self-image to help students obtain a higher education. Bert gave a motivational speech and inspiring presentation about the importance of character, confidence, and surrounding yourself with the right people.

Feather River College is a small, friendly school far removed from the bustle of city life. The campus provides an amazing setting with a variety of wildlife, including a resident deer herd. FRC students come from all over the United States to be a part of "America's Coolest Small Town."



Youth Education Summit Conference

Over 120 foster youth in Lassen, Plumas, Modoc, Sierra, and Trinity counties were invited to the 6th Annual Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) held on September 12 & 13, 2015 at the Grizzly Creek Ranch in Portola, CA. This was a multi-collaborative project with Probation, Child and Family Services, Independent Living Program, local Community Colleges, local Offices of Education, and Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.

The purpose of the project was to gather current and past foster youth with biological and foster families to share in an educational, team-building and bonding opportunity experience. The venue offered outdoor events including a ropes course. Two professional motivational speakers, Dee Hankins and Derek Clark inspired the crowd with stories of personal triumph overcoming challenges they faced in the foster care system. A magic show, games, skits and a dance provided additional entertainment. Parents and professional staff were given staff development from UC Davis on Recognizing Teen Drug Abuse. After a night spent in rustic cabins the event provided breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics such as College Financial Aid, Heathy Teen Relationships, Foster Youth Rights and Youth Employment offered by Alliance for Workforce Development Inc.

The event was offered for free to eligible families and participating youth were given fabulous gifts at the end of the event that included laptop computers, tablets and bikes. Alliance for Workforce Development was able to contribute sturdy backpacks, water bottles, flash drives and pencils to all participants. All agreed that they could hardly wait for next year's Y.E.S Conference!



The Foundation for California Community Colleges & Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. Join Forces



FOUNDATION for CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES
www.foundationccc.org

In September 2015, the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) on behalf of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, assisted with recruitment for a 21 person crew to work with the US Forest Service to help reduce wildfire risks. AFWD accepted applications, interviewed, and made recommendations to the Foundation for the positions of Crew Boss, Crew Leaders and Forest Technicians.

Crew training began in late September with crew members having extensive training sessions in the hazards of forestry work, safety training in chainsaw operation and communications training. Career Development workshops will be part of this crew's future along with a tour of Feather River Community College.

The projects to be conducted involve manual cutting of small trees, hand piling, building fire lines, brushing/clearing roads, cleaning culverts, and installing road signs throughout portions of the Plumas National Forest. We will report more on this exciting project in the near future!



This Quarter's Success Story

With Hard Work and Dedication Dreams Do Come True

We would like to introduce you to Lowell Siwundla, a job seeker success story for the Business and Career Network (BCN) in Plumas County. Lowell came to us asking for help and guidance in furthering his career. Lowell had been unemployed since September 10, 2014. His most recent employment had been in the restaurant field as a prep cook. He came to us desiring to pursue training in business, so that he could acquire the skills to obtain a management level positions in the culinary industry.

Lowell had previously self-initiated his AA in culinary arts at our local Feather River College (FRC) and had started his AA in Business Management. When Lowell came to AFWD he was registered at FRC and planned on graduating with a Business Management degree in May of 2015. He was also gaining Certificates of Achievement in Accounting Management and Small Business Management. Lowell was taking 18.5 units in various studies including Managerial Accounting, Business Law, Human Relations in Business, and Personal Finance. He had taken advantage of some grant funding, but had also exhausted his unemployment benefits. Lowell's Career Center Advisor (CCA) at the BCN in Quincy was able to help him achieve his goal of classroom training so he could find gainful employment by helping him with expenses that were not covered by his grant funding. Lowell did complete his courses and graduate with his AA in Business Management! He was then given the amazing opportunity to teach a class called The Fundamentals of Baking at Feather River College.

He continued his involvement with FRC by also engaging, starting up, and working in the Restaurant Operations for breakfast in the FRC college cafeteria. He also fills in when needed in the cafeteria program. Over the summer he had full-time employment serving food for the FRC Camp Program.

Lowell is a real go-getter, is doing something he is passionate about, and is grateful he will be able to stay in our community. Lowell is very satisfied with the assistance that he has received from the staff at Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.!

