



October 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010



Plumas Work Connection

1953 East Main Street Quincy, CA 95971

(530) 283-1606

www.aworkforce.org

AFWD Supports a Buy Local Campaign throughout Plumas County



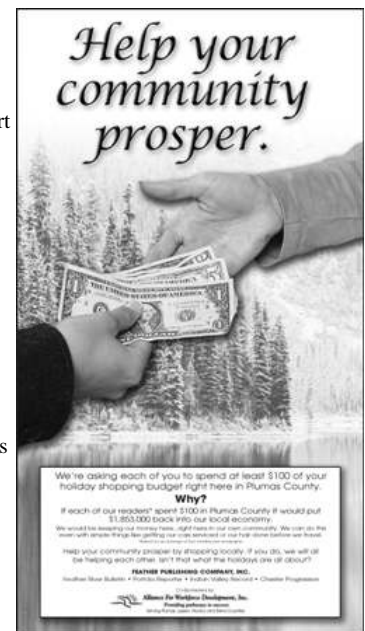
During the holiday season The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. has partnered with Feather Publishing in an effort to build awareness of how important it is to support our locally owned businesses. The goal is to raise public awareness and to educate consumers of the importance of buying from shops within their own neighborhood.

When people shop locally, a percentage of the total State sales tax is allocated for local funding. This pool of money, allocated to each county every quarter, helps pay for services such as emergency services. When shoppers spend money out of the county, or online, those tax dollars support services in other communities.

The partnership between AFWD and Feather Publishing aims to bring an awareness of how we can all help to:-

- Keep Our Neighbors Working
- Keep Our Local Economy Strong
- Keep Our Community Strong
- Keep Recycling Our Dollars

To this end, The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. has co-sponsored the "Spend \$100 in Your Community" Campaign which is being featured in full page advertisements and editorials in all of the Plumas County local newspapers. Look for this ad in the Feather River Bulletin, the Chester Progressive, the Indian Valley Record and the Portola Reporter.



Clean Energy 2A Workforce Training Program



Seven participants from Plumas County and one from Sierra County recently had the opportunity to complete the Clean Energy 2A Workforce Training Program. The training was provided by Richard Heath & Associates and funding for the program came from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The course consisted of forty hours of online Weatherization training and 32 hours of hands-on lab. The lab portion trained participants on troubleshooting and repair of residential propane and natural gas appliances.



Participants utilized the Plumas Work Connection's computer lab or worked at home to complete the online training. RHA transported their 'mobile lab', a converted diesel trailer, to Quincy where participants received 'hands-on' experience inspecting and troubleshooting propane and natural gas appliances.

Specific course material included such topics as environmental hazards and basic safety, customer service, construction basics, blower door testing, weatherizing mobile homes, managing combustion appliance safety and introduction to building analysis.

One participant commented, "I am thankful for the opportunity to update my skills. Without this program, I would not have been able to begin full time employment and remain in Plumas County."



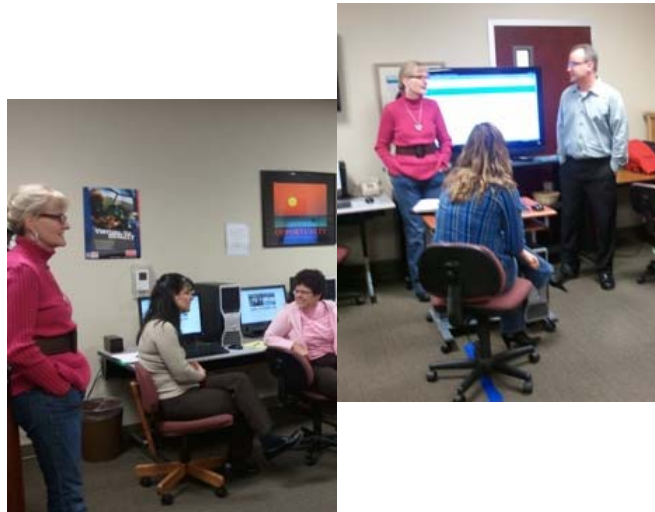
North State Jobs Website



Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) has begun using its much anticipated, new job search resource, [North State Jobs](http://NorthStateJobs.com). North State Jobs is an online job search site similar to Caljobs, Monster, etc. The website is available for use by local jobseekers, employers and AFWD staff. It can also be utilized by out of the area job seekers interested in relocating.

Upon completion of a short registration process, jobseekers can view current job postings using different search criteria, create and post multiple resumes and list additional background information such as education or a commercial driver's license. Employers can fly job openings and view posted resumes for possible applicants. Employers can also filter resumes based on the same criteria.

The staff at AFWD have been training to convert to the new Management Information System for several months and is currently utilizing the new site. North State Jobs is an all in one resource for job seekers, employers and staff. AFWD staff recently attended training at the Lassen Career Network with NoRTEC's Grants Manager, Brian Boyer, on the new system. Brian was able to answer questions to help smooth the transition for AFWD case managers. AFWD staff is excited to be able to utilize this new job search resource and have received positive feedback from clients.



Submitted by Brent Cunningham

Success Story – Amanda Barnes

Plumas Work Connection's client, Amanda Barnes-Turner, reported in the March 2010 Community Coordinator Reports, was recently sworn in to the Plumas County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit at the new Plumas-Sierra Courthouse in Portola, California.

Amanda was part of the Sierra Pacific mill closure in May 2009 and utilized the training opportunity to complete Butte College's Law Enforcement Academy. Amanda stayed focused on her goal. She showed determination and follow through to complete the rigorous training program. Amanda actively searched law enforcement job positions throughout Northern and Central California. She began full time employment in Plumas County in February 2010.

We are excited to have had the opportunity to assist Amanda in reaching her employment goals and she is a Plumas Work Connection Success Story.

Submitted by Brent Cunningham

AFWD's Weatherization Technician Internships with Plumas County Community Development Commission

In May of this year, the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. placed two interns with the Plumas County Community Development Commission (PCCDC). After completing their week of Weatherization training at the Cleantech Innovation Center in Oroville, Rodney Cottle and Travis Burkhead spent five and a half months as Weatherization Technicians with PCCDC installing energy efficient measures in eligible homes all over Plumas County.

The energy efficient measures offered by PCCDC's weatherization scheme gave the interns valuable experience in many areas; including weather stripping, repairing and replacing doors and windows, installing carbon monoxide alarms and whole house programmable thermostats for furnace heaters, caulking and conducting blower door testing. Combined with excellent work behavior, a high level of proficiency was displayed by both interns as they achieved each of the skills outlined in their training plans. This has led to Rodney and Travis accepting offers of full-time employment with PCCDC.

Travis and Rodney received training from their supervisor in blower door testing



The success of these internships highlights the value of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) dollars being put to use in Plumas County.

Rodney using a mitre saw in the mobile workshop



Both of the interns derived a great deal of satisfaction from providing PCCDC's clients with a far more comfortable and energy efficient living environment. On a recent site visit it was extremely clear to see how satisfied and delighted the home owner was with Travis and Rodney's work.

Submitted by Jan Prichard

Chester-Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce "Going Green" Project



In the summer of 2010 the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) provided the Chester-Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce with four interns to work on the "Going Green" project. These interns were students from Feather River College's nationally recognized Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) club.

The interns were part of a collaborative effort to develop and promote local chamber member websites, while encouraging community sustainability through environmental awareness and efficiency. The SIFE students utilized the Chamber Nation digital network of Traffic Catcher Websites to complete the program.

During the course of their internship the students were able to complete Traffic Catcher Sites for 88 businesses. Many Of those businesses are now displayed on the "Green Business Search Engine" [Green Business Chamber -](#)

[Green Business Directory](#) after completing their “Going Green” commitment.

Please find below some examples of the sites that were completed by the interns:



[Pier 142](#)

[Coffee Station](#)

[Lake Almanor Tow](#)

[BNB Books](#)

[Blue Goose Fine Art Gallery](#)

Commenting on their success, the interns said they were pleased to have cultivated their public relations skills through networking with local community figures. They also realized innovative ways to be environmentally sustainable that can be utilized by other Chamber Nation Members. The students, who are aspiring to leadership roles in the workforce, felt that learning how a community is managed was an invaluable and rewarding experience.

submitted by Jan Prichard

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25th - Labor Law Update Workshop at the Plumas Work Connection

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