One of the most unique Butte County employers the AFWD Business Service team had the pleasure of working with this summer is B.L. Griffin Enterprises. BL Griffin builds, repairs and tests gas service stations. B.L. Griffin is known industry-wide for their commitment to excellence and the quality work they perform. AFWD had the opportunity to not only learn about this unique business but also place two of our participants from the Adult and Youth programs.

B.L. Griffin was established in March of 1987 primarily for the construction of service stations and commercial fuel facilities. In 1991, B.L. Griffin acquired a Service Station Maintenance Company and have since added an Environmental and Air Quality Testing component.

As a small but important local business, AFWD was thrilled to place AFWD participants with B.L. Griffin in an On The Job Training capacity to learn and perfect their new careers. AFWD is grateful for our partnership with B.L. Griffin and their participation in our mission of providing pathways to success for local job seekers.
AFWD Annual All Staff Meeting 2019: Shared Ideas, Shared Successes

On August 8, 2019 Alliance for Workforce Development hosted its annual All Staff meeting and employee gathering at the Chico Area Recreation District Community Center in Chico.

AFWD Executive Director Traci Holt addressed the staff to share updates to programs and processes for the coming fiscal year. She also shared with the nearly 90 AFWD employees present, the special honor of the CWA Charlie Brown Award that AFWD received in May at the WorkCon Conference in Anaheim CA. This award was bestowed on AFWD for its efforts in the Camp Fire recovery.

Business Service Director Amy Velazquez, and Youth Programs Director Heather Chavez presented client success stories from Youth and Adult programs. Christopher Fox is an enrollee in our Adult program, now employed with Allstate Insurance through an On the Job Training (OJT), and Desirae Fargo was an enrollee of our Youth Program who completed an Internship with AFWD as an Office Assistant in our Chico Office and was later hired as an Office Manager at All Star Towing in Chico, based on the skills she’d learned during her internship.

After the presentations, staff was treated to a fiesta—complete with a Taco Truck lunch and Treat Cart with elotes, raspados, and Mexican candy. There were games and activities for staff to enjoy, as well as the beautiful rose garden and greenway of the CARD Community Center. AFWD is grateful for all the good work our staff does for the communities we serve. Our impact on the clients and businesses we help every day, is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the employees who make it happen.
Welding Together a Better Future

Tyler Smith received a layoff notice earlier this year, and found himself without work to provide for his family. He wants to move on to more stable, employment, but due to his lack of formal education beyond high school this is not an easy task. Tyler was referred to Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. for assistance. Tyler had heard about AFWD and was interested to see what they could do to help him meet his career goals. Tyler explained his goal to become a certified welder. He came to the AFWD office in Chico and completed a career assessment. After researching the welding sector, he was given the opportunity to enroll in the Welding Training program provided by the Butte County Career Technical Education Center (CTEC).

With a family to support, a recent lay-off, and the fact that the Welding training program doesn’t qualify for the PELL grant, Tyler could not afford to pay the tuition required for enrollment. AFWD was able to help with his funding, which allowed Tyler to enroll into the training where he can acquire the necessary skills, experience, and certification to enter into the job market as a certified Welder. Upon completion of this training, Tyler will be in a much better position to achieve his goal of full time, self-sufficient employment as a Welder.

An Extraordinarily Successful Second Chance

Chris was a MCRP inmate in Oroville, CA. seeking any type of employment to begin accumulating work experience after a long history with the justice system. Chris had very little work experience and was discouraged due to his situation. In March of 2019, Chris was enrolled into the NDWG 2017 Storm Program. AFWD found placement for Chris in a Temporary Job Creation with Butte Environmental Council. There Chris learned a completely new industry and gained more than three months of work experience to put on his resume. After successful completion of his temporary job, AFWD staff began helping him develop his professional profile and preparing him to execute a successful job search.

Chris had always dreamed of a career in professional sales. He came to us as a skilled typist (almost 70 WPM). He also brought valuable academic training experience in Business Information Systems. However, he lacked the professional experience necessary to obtain fulltime employment in the field. Aside from a small sales position as a private contractor Chris held selling for EBAY, most of Chris’s experience was in the production industry. Furthermore, his justice involvement was a significant barrier for him.

With the help of AFWD staff, Chris was able to secure employment with Allstate Insurance. Chris was enrolled into the Adult WIOA Program in June of 2019 and participated in an On-the-Job Training program to help him meet the qualifications for the position through paid training.

Chris is doing a stellar job in his new position! He’s come a very long way from being justice involved, to unemployed, to filling in employment gaps, and finally to embarking on a career path. We are very proud of his accomplishments and very happy to have been there to help him succeed.
Meeting of the Minds – Monterey, CA

In early September, staff members from Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) attended ‘Meeting of the Minds’ a training sponsored by the California Workforce Association, in beautiful Monterey, California. This training presented topics by industry leaders, relevant to the changes facing employers and job seekers alike. Businesses are facing unprecedented issues with jobs going unfilled and businesses creating temporary positions to meet the cyclical needs of their business. During the “Unseen Problems of Underemployed and The Gig Economy,” the speaker presented strategies for business to deal with the demands of the new economy.

In the training session “Preparing the Workforce of the Future,” the speaker addressed the many issues facing businesses in this new Gig Economy. With temporary workers in greater need, it is necessary to attract workers for these part-time temporary positions. Many older workers are staying in the workforce longer and often choosing part-time positions.

The first-time job seekers are wondering whether the high price of a 4-year college degree will meet their career aspirations economically. Creating apprenticeship programs for the trades in need of workers is one way employers are meeting the challenge of a retiring workforce in the trades. The session “New Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeship Models in the Bay Area Public Utilities Industry: What’s Working and Why?” addressed the issues they are facing creating the training programs. This new model of training created in the Bay Area within the public utilities industry has been most useful.

Many businesses are deciding to grow their own employees through training. Integrity Heating, based out of Loyalton, decided to hire and train his employees in the HVAC industry. Now after a year of in-house training, the employees are able to service heaters and air conditioners by themselves. Frank Emsoff, owner, said, “It’s almost better training in-house because the employees can grow with the business. There are simply not enough HVAC experienced job seekers locally.”

With an economy of minimal unemployment, employers are challenged with finding new avenues of hiring. Workforce offices are helping businesses by identifying ways to reach both underemployed and new job seekers. The Institute for the Future indicates that 80% of the jobs in 2030 are not even invented yet. The session “Adaptability and Resilience – the new Model of Employment” addressed the changes in jobs citing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation are creating very new positions which often require On-The-Job training, in-house. We know this trend will continue in the foreseeable future.

The training sessions over the three-day Meeting of the Minds program offered attendees many new ways to assist employers facing the challenges faced in a Gig Economy, low unemployment, a diverse workforce and ever-changing job skills requirements.
Rapid Response: Making the Most of Things

Milestone Technologies is closing its Chico operations, but not without providing a wide range of services for employees affected by the closure. The Fremont CA based technical and IT support business has partnered with Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD), and several local businesses to provide relocation and other services to the 148 workers facing imminent unemployment when Milestone Chico closes on October 9.

Rapid Response is a federally mandated program, administered locally by AFWD, designed to mitigate the negative effects of layoffs or business closure. Due to the large number of employees affected by the Milestone closure, and the valuable technical skills they represent in our local workforce, it was decided to expand both the scope and nature of this Rapid Response outreach.

Working with Milestone HR Manager Lisha Clark, AFWD Business Services decided to host a mini “hiring fair”, onsite at Milestone. Business Service Representatives contacted employer partners who could benefit from the advanced IT, customer service, and other skills that Milestone employees have. They were invited to attend hiring events at Milestone, where they could set up a recruiting table, similar to a job fair environment. Lisha Clark coordinated with Milestone department managers, to send employees into the “fair”, where they could not only find out about AFWD, EDD, and Butte County services, but also meet with recruiters from other Chico employers.

Recruiters from ThirdLove, Tri Counties Bank, ClockShark, Work Truck Solutions, United Health Group, and Advanced Document Concepts all attended. The sessions were conducted twice a day, on three consecutive Wednesdays from August 21 – September 4. Lisha and other Milestone managers promoted the events heavily among staff and encouraged staff to attend during the work day. By the end of three weeks, recruiters had met with dozens of Milestone employees, collected many resumes, and had even made some offers.

In the period since the Rapid Response Activities, AFWD has continued to assist Milestone employees in finding new jobs. We continue to refer these workers to local employers such as Fifth Sun, Lulus.com, Weiss McNair, Lundberg, and Build.com. We are grateful to our strong network of employer partners for their proactive efforts in mitigating this unfortunate closure, and grateful to Lisha Clark and the rest of the Milestone Chico management team for their advocacy on behalf of their employees.
On Friday, August 30th, the Alliance for Workforce Development was honored to join the Chico Chamber of Commerce as they welcomed home John Aylworth with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for his biotech company, FACTORFIVE.

John was born and raised in Chico, and received his Masters of Business Administration from California State University, Chico. Like many CSUC Chico graduates, John headed to the Bay Area to gain experience and start his company.

Attendees of the Ribbon Cutting ceremony were treated to a tour of the biotech lab to see for themselves what FACTORFIVE does. We learned FACTORFIVE produces a line of anti-aging skincare using human stem cells as the key ingredient. These stem cells are withdrawn from human fat collected through liposuction waste and grown in their lab. These cells then form the foundation for their regenerative serum, anti-aging cream, and eye/lash creams. According to their website, their products are “backed by years of scientific research.” FACTORFIVE products are sold both online and in doctor’s offices such as dermatologist and plastic surgeons.

John’s decision to bring FACTORFIVE to his home town of Chico, California, investing in the community and adding jobs to the local economy, is exciting news for Butte County. With nine employees, FACTORFIVE is a small company, but they have been listed as a “company to watch” by 1 Million Cups, 5 Star Bank, and Impact Ventures among others. We anticipate they will be adding even more jobs to our local economy very soon.

“We would like to welcome an amazing company to amazing Meriam Park,” said Katy Thoma, Chico Chamber of Commerce CEO as she sighted the strength that small companies like FACTORFIVE bring to Chico.
Celebrating with Ice Cream

The Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) was honored to join the Chico Chamber of Commerce as they were finally able to celebrate the opening of the new Chico office on June 27, 2019. The original ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled in November of 2018, just after the actual opening of the new office. Like most of Butte County, the Chamber of Commerce put their celebration on hold and focused all of their efforts toward responding to the needs of the Camp Fire.

The celebration included a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and of course ICE CREAM! Shubert’s Homemade Ice Cream and Candy was on site serving guests as we not only celebrated the opening of the new office but also welcomed the new President and CEO of the Chamber, Katy Thoma.

During the celebration, kudos was also given to Kelsey Torres for her role as “Acting President” during the long search to fill the President and CEO role. We are proud to say, Kelsey started her career with the Chamber of Commerce as an OJT through the Alliance for Workforce Development just a few years ago.

In addition to helping the Chamber of Commerce with their staffing needs, AFWD also works hand in hand with the Chamber, along with Downtown Chico Business Association, 3Core, California State University, Chico and Butte College as members of Team Chico. Team Chico is a full-service business support and outreach team providing professional, expert services to the local business community. “Through this public-private partnership with the City of Chico, we are able to advance the city’s economic development goals, retain and grow local businesses, and ensure Chico remains attractive to potential employers.” – Chamber of Commerce
A Business Service that Serves our Community and Beyond

Airspray USA is a company, of unique importance to fire-prone Butte County, California, and the Western United States. Airspray develops, operates, and maintains a fleet of firefighting aircraft. They also operate a firefighting flight simulator system, and an aircraft conversion and development operation, which develops new Airtankers and tank systems, converting passenger planes such as the British Aerospace 146, into Airtankers through a sophisticated gutting and retrofitting process.

One look inside the large hanger facility at the Chico Airport, will tell you that the process of making and maintaining these tankers is a lot of sophisticated technical work. The shop is abuzz with skilled employees at work, aircraft in various states of repair, and components that look like they’d be at home in at NASA. It’s immediately evident, even to a layperson, that this kind of technical work, requires a crew with advanced technical skills.

Ravi Saip, Director of USA Operations, reached out to AFWD in June 2019 after hearing about our services through NoRTEC’s Grow Manufacturing Initiative. He had identified a local candidate, Kyle Santos, who had the potential to succeed as an Avionics Technician but needed some intensive training to get up to speed. Kyle had been a Communications Tech with the Marine Corps, so he had the technical acumen to transition into Avionic repair and service, but lacked the specific industry training and experience in aircraft systems.

After discussing all of this with Ravi, our Business Service team made an assessment that this was a perfect fit for a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, On the Job Training (WIOA OJT) placement.

Kyle started his job as an Avionics Technician Trainee with Airspray in mid-July. While there is a lot to learn during his OJT training, in our first meetings with Kyle and his Supervisor, Anthony, it’s apparent that he’s off to a good start. As Ravi Saip said of the Training process, “Kyle’s true training in our shop is going to take longer than 16 weeks (the length of the OJT period)...he’ll be 18-24 months gaining knowledge for his A&P (Airframe & Powerplant) license testing...but (with the OJT) we can target some of the basic skills he’ll need to build on later”. AFWD is proud to partner with Airspray in providing Kyle with the skills he’ll need as a part of Airspray’s team. The work Kyle is doing, and the skills he is building, will benefit himself, Airspray, and potentially everyone affected by wildfire.
FROM JUNK TO A JEWEL

Alastair had a varied and successful professional career: he was a Senior Claims Representative for State Farm Insurance, on the Special Disaster Team. He worked in Silicon Valley in Client Relations at companies like Oracle & Red Hat. He worked at the Federal Reserve as a named accountant for IBM. Some time ago, he moved back to his home town of Oroville, to work as an independent consultant and raise a family.

Post-campfire, AFWD’s “Hazwoper/OSHA/CPR” program was brought to his attention as a prerequisite for some of the new, higher paying jobs in the environmental cleanup field. The class provided a window into both the politics and economics of rebuilding The Ridge, and the complex ecosystem of public and private entities involved in this multi-phase process. He was initially interested in construction but was not sure which trade or company would provide the best long-term path for him to be successful locally.

Alastair’s Hazwoper instructor had experience in the mining sector and commented how suppliers providing picks & shovels made out better than the bulk of the actual miners during the California Gold Rush. This got Alastair thinking about who could benefit locally. A.M. King Industries was one such local company he discovered after noticing their heavy machinery displayed in a yard off the freeway. During several visits, it became clear that they had experienced steady global growth over the past four decades but hadn’t really focused on business development locally.

It seemed like a golden opportunity for Alastair to use his new acquired education to truly try something new and exciting. He reached out with a rough idea to A.M. King, that is now evolving into a multiphase plan to help them grow business locally. The management was progressive in terms of taking on new ideas, but fiscally conservative. This is where the AFWD team stepped in. The OJT subsidy we provided A.M King for Alistair’s employment, mitigated the risk of training a new employee.

He is acquiring new skills daily, and cross-training with almost everybody at the company to improve his product knowledge and better communicate with the employers’ vendors and the market. Despite the learning curve, he feels valued and appreciated by the A.M. King team and hope they see value in the continued investment as he performs tasks ranging from research, analyze, and improve processes in this new project management role which includes everything from intaking and appraising new assets to analyzing the results of marketing campaigns and cost versus benefits of buying versus renting equipment when they salvage mines, processing plants, and quarries. The job includes everything from tracking auctions worldwide to signing Bills of Lading when trucks leave the yard.
2019 Annual BBQ: “Way to go Oroville!”

Oroville Area Chamber of Commerce members gathered at Riffles Resort to celebrate Oroville's rich history and applaud those bringing new dreams to the Oroville community August 29, 2019. There was delicious food, music, games, and networking opportunities.

Beautiful Fall table arrangements and decorations adorned the dome at Riffles Resort set by the peaceful Feather River. Vendors lined up along the side of the venue and the caterer Table Top Restaurant provided a tasty meal.

Eric Smith, Oroville Area Chamber President/CEO shared multiple interesting historical facts about the City of Oroville. Oroville Mayor Chuck Reynolds spoke on new businesses and growth in the community. There are new housing developments in the works to hopefully offset the sudden growth from the effects of the Camp Fire. Bob Wentz CEO of Oroville Hospital talked about the vision for the new hospital expansion and the successful funding outreach.

After the Las Plumas Oroville Alliance Band played the National Anthem, the instructor shared their recent success in being invited to play at Carnegie Hall in April 2020. The support from the proud attendees netted an impromptu donation of over $5000 towards their trip.

Youth On Patrol

Paul was referred to AFWD by FEMA during the Camp Fire. Paul was directly affected by the Camp Fire losing his home and employment. When Paul met with his Career Center Advisor he was in search of employment. He had just moved to Oroville and needed assistance with job searching. Paul had most of his employment experience in retail and was looking to start a career. Paul took a career assessment with his CCA and found out he had a strong interest in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Paul wanted to gain experience in law enforcement before his dream of going through the police academy. He received assistance with creating his resume, interview clothes and a referral to the Armed Guard Inc. Paul got an interview and was hired August 2019. He then received assistance obtaining his Armed Guard uniform and equipment to further help advance him. Paul continues to advance within the company and will be a patrol car guard soon.
STEPping Into a New Career

In September of 2017 Sabrina’s resume was an accurate self-assessment in her referral to the Skills Training Employment Program. Skills: Motivated, Outgoing, Assertive, Team Player, Customer Service, Active Listener. These were a few of the personal skills that paid off for Sabrina and Gary Ott Allstate Insurance Agent. Recently an AFWD Business Service Representative went to the Oroville Allstate office to do a new STEP contract and was greeted with Sabrina’s smile. Sabrina was training the new staff member. But she agreed to take a moment to go in to her office for a photo. Sabrina was hired on in November of 2017 on a STEP agreement and is now a Licensed Insurance Agent for Allstate. Way to go Sabrina!

Culinary Skills for Christian

Christian Wood came to Alliance for Workforce Development through Butte County Probation’s Transition Age Youth (TAY) Program. TAY is a one-year deferred entry of judgment program that provides education, employment, and other services to assist the client with completing court requirements and having their charges dismissed when they are successfully completed. This is a successful program that AFWD is happy to collaboratively work with. One of the requirements for completion of the program is for the participant to become employed. AFWD teaches pre-employment skills and assists the participant in gaining work experience.

Christian participated in weekly workshops with his Career Advisor and always had a positive attitude. Christian expressed his desire to one day open his own coffee shop with his mom. AFWD collaborated with Butte County Office of Education who were doing their first Culinary Academy. Christian was able to gain hands-on experience with a local catering company and also information needed to pass the California Food Handler’s test and earn his Food Handler’s Card.
Paradise Park and Recreation District Office Back on the Ridge

On August 28th, 2019 Paradise Park and Recreation (PPRD) invited the Chamber of Commerce, partner agencies, local businesses and most importantly the community members to come to the District office and enjoy in the festivities of its grand re-opening and ribbon cutting. Alliance for Workforce Development’s Recovery Team. The Paradise Park and Recreation moved from their temporary location in Chico back to the district office located at 6626 Skyway in Paradise CA.

Even with the lack of internet connection PPRD knew they needed to be back on the ridge with the members of the community. The Chamber of Commerce commended PPRD for its hard work getting the parks, baseball fields and facilities up and going. It is still a work in progress, but PPRD is committed to “Enhancing the Quality of Life Through People, Parks, and Recreation”

Alliance for Workforce Development’s Recovery team has been providing site workers through the TJC program to help with getting the parks back in operation. After, the ribbon cutting, PPRD’S team was gifted a Certificate of Recognition from Assemblyman James Gallagher in acknowledgment of their dedication, hard work, and perseverance for community growth. They were excited to be back on the ridge serving the community, they provided refreshments and ice cream sandwiches for all.

Gaining Skills and Rebuilding Communities

Phineas was looking for work at the Day Reporting Center after the Camp Fire. He had lost both his home and job due to the fire and he wanted to get back up the hill and help with the cleanup of his town. Unfortunately, at the time, he did not have a lot of work experience in the construction field. With help from Alliance Workforce Development Inc.’s Youth Program, Phineas went to work for Filtrexx. There they made SiltSoxx, which are used to divert, control and trap sediment. He worked with a team and learned how to run a skid steer machine, a completely new skill. When that company relocated their operation out of the area, Phineas went back to job searching. With assistance from his Career Center Advisor and a Business Service Representative, he was able to begin working with a company called Grassroots. This company is a family owned business that is working to prevent and control the wind and water erosion from the newly cleaned off lots in Paradise. Once all the lots are cleared and cleaned, they are then approved for the next step, which is where Phineas and Grassroots come in. The added bonus for Phineas is they are using the SiltSoxx from Filtrexx. Through his work experiences, Phineas has learned a lot teamwork, leadership, and construction. Through the Youth program, Phineas has been able to gain life experiences in resume building, job search, financial literacy and most of all personal growth!
Completion of Butte College RN Program Leads to Success

Brianna came to us in December of 2017 after completion of her second semester of the Butte College Registered Nursing (RN) Program. She had been working full time as a Customer Service Representative (CSR)/Medical Scribe for Feather River Hospital in Paradise, where her responsibilities included: answering phone calls and emails, scheduling patient appointments, managing insurance claims, data entry, greeting and assisting patients with check in/out process, and patient referrals. Brianna had also previously worked as a Patient Care Tech, Certified Hemodialysis Tech, and a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA).

Brianna applied and was accepted into the Butte College RN program after waiting a few semesters. Becoming a Registered Nurse is the last step on the Nursing career pathway, which can include Certified Nurse Assistant, Licensed Vocational Nurse, but can also include other healthcare related occupations such as Certified Hemodialysis Technician. This pathway typically concludes with Registered Nurse, which is included in the Healthcare Sector, one of the priority sectors for NoRTEC.

Labor Market information for the Chico area indicates that Brianna can expect to earn a median of $42.61 per hour typically with a night differential of +$4-$6 per hour. Butte County typically has an average of 139 openings for Registered Nurses annually. Because Brianna has worked in the health care industry for the past 6 years in different capacities, she won’t have difficulty obtaining employment.

As part of AFWD enrollment procedures, Brianna was assessed by her Case Manager every semester for her service needs, including a thorough review and discussion of her financial aid award. AFWD was able to assist Brianna with textbooks her Kaplan testing service for her second and third year. The November before her final semester, Feather River Hospital was nearly consumed in the Camp Fire which devastated the town of Paradise, nearly leveling it overnight. As a result, Brianna’s employment was eliminated. AFWD was able to pay her complete licensing fees for her NCLEX application and exam fees in her 4th and final semester allowing Brianna to use her financial aid to pay for other training costs associated with her final semester.

Brianna completed her final term with A’s and B’s and graduated in May 2019. She interviewed with Enloe Medical Center in Chico, shortly thereafter, and received a tentative offer of employment pending successful passage of her NCLEX. She went on to take and pass her NCLEX on June 27, 2019. She will attend her New Employee Orientation at Enloe on August 5th, 2019 and will be working on the 3rd floor Special Care Unit (SCU) earning $49.50 per hour for the night shift with full benefits, more than double the rate she was earning at Feather River Hospital as a CSR/Medical Scribe.
The Incredible Isaac

Being a Youth Advisor allows us to meet many extraordinary individuals. Isaac Prusa is one that we won’t forget. Having lived overseas in many countries, he has done things that few people have. “World-wise” would be an accurate assessment. The drawback to this upbringing was that Isaac hadn’t finished high school. Being an incredibly social and competitive individual, online classes had lacked appeal, and at 19, he felt it was time to finish it up. Having completed two of the four GED tests on his own, he needed the motivation to complete the other two.

With AFWD’s help for the cost of the tests, Isaac sailed through the third one and all that was left was math. Math is a four-letter word to many, and Isaac was no exception. He was referred to Oroville Adult School for assistance and he worked hard to learn the topics that he had missed. His Career Advisor became his cheerleader and biggest fan, and when Isaac was ready, he took the math test and aced it! Getting his GED was in the bag.

During this time, he was also looking to improve his employment situation. Working as a kitchen assistant in a retirement home, he was only getting eighteen hours a week and making just over minimum wage. After receiving help to create a professional resume and implementing new job search strategies, Isaac had four interviews in the first week! We went shopping to get a professional interview outfit and brushed up on interview techniques. The next week he had three job offers! After weighing his offers carefully, Isaac decided to take a full-time position as a landscape assistant for Hanson & Hanson. They are thrilled with his energy and drive. He created a budget based on his increased wages that Allen Greenspan would have been proud of and is sticking with it. Great things come to those who dream big and have the drive to make them happen!

5th Annual Oroville Union High School District College Fair

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Youth Team members hosted a booth at the 5th Annual Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) College Fair at Las Plumas High School on September 18th, 2019. All Middle School and High School students in the area were invited to attend. Colleges from all over the area were in attendance. Various military recruiters, vocational programs, and other post-secondary resources were in attendance as well. Career Center Advisor (CCA) Rebekah and CCA Marta had a Jenga XL activity for guests to learn more about the Youth Program and job readiness. Each Jenga piece had a question that students could answer, and in exchange receive candy. Questions ranged from “What are two things that should be on a resume?” to “How many offices does AFWD have?” CCAs shared with many students and parents the services provided by AFWD. Flyers were handed out for the upcoming Butte County Fall Job Fair, and many students and parents were interested in attending.
Making a Difference

Barbara Morton came to Alliance for Workforce Development seeking employment, specifically employment helping rebuild Paradise California. Barbara was enrolled in the program as someone who has been long-term unemployed. At the time of her intake Barbara had been out of employment for over two years. Barbara had owned her own business but due to a change in location she was forced to close its doors. As a business owner she always valued helping others by providing great customer service. Barbara specialized in property clean up and repair. She has disposed of materials, painted, changed locks and made properties look great again. Barbara knew after the disaster happened in Paradise her skills could be utilized to help rebuild the town.

Barbara was selected to participate in a Temporary Job Creation with The Town of Paradise as a flagger. Barbara had to attend a safety course and pass the course before she would be able to participate in the placement. Barbara was enthusiastic and jumped at the opportunity to gain a new skill. She attended the safety course and received her Flagging Certificate. In August Barbara started her job with a smile on her face, because she is getting the chance to make a difference.

The Future Starts Here

Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. (AFWD) provides Job Readiness classes for participants who are on probation and/or residing in Tri-Counties Treatment, working closely with Butte County Probation Department to teach job search and retention skills.

Many of these participants do not have work experience, have a gap in work history, or do not have a high school diploma or GED. Without sustainable employment, they are also at a high risk of reoffending. With the help of the Job Readiness classes, the participants learn many ways to work through their barriers and continue to be productive. Resiliency and adaptability skills are reinforced in the class. Strategies that help the participants to continue to excel and avoid reoffending are taught.

The workshops focus on realistic and achievable goals, both short and long term. Clients learn what soft skills they possess and what they can do to contribute to the community. Time is spent discussing that they need to be successful and what they want to improve on a personal level.

Throughout the weeklong class, they create master applications, resumes, cover letters and learn how to dress for success. Mock interviews are completed, as well as goal setting and career assessments. All these opportunities help them come out of the class with tools they can utilize for a productive future.
Butte County

One-Stop Visitors:
5617

Businesses Served:
277

Business Services:
3416

AFWD

Clients Enrolled:
368

Unemployment Rate
(As of: August 2019)
4.9%