USFS: Caring for the Land and Serving People

On January 17, 2023, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Youth Program in Susanville sponsored the 2023 USFS Jobs Information and Application Workshop. Planning and execution of the workshop was spearheaded by Angel Price, YCCA Lead; Jolea Clapp, BSR; and Laureen Kinnaman, YCCA II.

The guest presenter was Casey Simoni, Fire Engine Operator 315; Beckwourth Ranger Station, USFS, Plumas National Forest. Ms. Simoni gave a brief history of her own experience and how working for the USFS had far-reaching, positive effects on her life. She then described the working conditions during the Summer fire season, and elaborated on the wages that can be earned.

The clients in attendance were very excited about the opportunity. Another workshop followed about a week later to assist them with completing the 5 courses (about 32 hours) online that were required before they could apply for the firefighting positions.

We sent a simplified step-by-step instructions document, with links, to all clients who attended; as well as some who could not attend the workshop in person. We emphasized how important it was that they started the courses right away, helped them one-on-one in AFWD’s computer lab, sent reminders via text, and checked on their progress daily.
On Tuesday, February 28, 2023 the Business Service Representative (BSR) in Lassen County, Jolea Clapp, presented to the Lassen County Board of Supervisors the highlights and statistics for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. As one of three service providers for the Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium (NoRTEC), Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) in Lassen County, provided adults and dislocated workers with assistance in excess of $55,000 which included assistance with tuition and fees, class materials, and on-the-job trainings. AFWD’s youth program assisted 37 youth clients for the 21/22 fiscal year and in total 6,160 clients were served throughout Lassen County. Jolea pointed out that AFWD in Lassen County also served 105 unique businesses and allocated over $85,000 to Lassen County participants.

The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected businesses and job seekers. In the first quarter of AFWD’s 2021/2022 Fiscal year, Lassen County saw unemployment rates at 5.7% however by the fourth quarter rates were down to 3.8%. Although more people are returning to the workplace, Lassen County residents and businesses continue to navigate the pandemic.

Jolea also highlighted events that AFWD held and assisted with. Some of these events are their twice a year job fairs, partnering with the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at Lassen High School to provide interview training and competition, partnering with Lassen Community College for their classroom trainings, and taking part in the Lassen County Healthcare Collaborative.

Overall, the presentation was successful and helpful to the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. AFWD will continue to advocate on behalf of Lassen county to continue providing services to businesses and individuals.

LIVE AT 5 WITH KJDX

On Friday, March 10, 2023, the Business Service Representative (BSR) in Lassen County, Jolea Clapp, had the opportunity to take part in the Live At 5 radio show on 93.3 JDX. Jolea participated in the radio show to share information about Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) as well as share statistics from their 2021/2022 program year.

Jolea was able to inform listeners about the service that AFWD provides to help individuals and employers in the community. Andrea Drake and Brandy Wilder, the radio hosts, had a lot of questions to help answer questions that the listeners may have.

Overall, the radio show was a very successful event and Jolea feels that it got information out to the public about AFWD that individuals and businesses may not have known before.
Since 2009, Alliance for Workforce Development's (AFWD) Youth Program has teamed up with Lassen High School's Future Business Leader's of America (FBLA) club to put on an interview event to assist the students in acquiring practical knowledge of interviewing skills and also to prepare them for the State competitions. Over the years the event has morphed into a six-day event involving, not only the students but also the community.

The first day student’s meet with AFWD staff to review how to prepare, present and follow up on interviewing. This year the students were competing on actual local, open positions that they could be eligible to apply for. The next day they worked on an interview handbook applying what they learned and doing research on the position and company they are competing for.

The third day mentors from the community and management from the companies that they were competing for took time to sit with the students in small groups and give them expert advice on what the companies were looking for and how to present themselves. This year Brenda Poteete, Executive Director of Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities, Wes Stuckey, Assistant Manager at Tractor Supply in Susanville and Susan Hilton, Registered Nurse and Gracie Claypool, C.N.A, Marketing from Lassen Rehabilitation and Nursing were on-hand.

Day four and five were spent competing. This year’s judges were Morgan Nugent, Lassen High School’s Principle, Jolea Clapp, AFWD Business Service Representative and Kim Keith, Youth Program Manager. The judges were impressed by the student’s confidence and performance at the competition. The last day the student’s received helpful feedback on things they did right and ways to improve. This year Ethan Shaw won 1st place, Tucker Schall won 2nd place and 3rd place was won by Taylor McElhaney. Great job to all of the students and the members of the community that dedicated their time and expertise to them.
LONG AWAITED SUCCESS

Nicole moved to Susanville in September of 2022 for a fresh start. She was collecting unemployment but eager to find a job where she could help people. She came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc (AFWD) in Susanville for WIOA assistance as a job seeker. Nicole has a passion for helping others and wanted to enter a career where she could be of service to her peers in the community. She applied for a position with Lassen Family services as a Program Support Clerk. After interviewing with them she was offered the position if she would participate in an On-The-Job Training (OJT) to learn the skills required for the position, as she has had no paid experience. Nicole worked with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) to develop her training plan to achieve her goals. Nicole’s start date was pushed back several months due to pre-employment requirements. She almost lost hope a few times but persevered through as she looked forward to her new career opportunity. She is currently participating in the OJT and loves her position. She is now teaching a cooking class that has received excellent reviews from the community. She is also preparing to teach a budgeting class with the new participants. She is enjoying her position and learning a lot. She has expressed her appreciation for the partnership with AFWD and Lassen Family Services allowing her to participate in this OJT. Needless to say, the months of waiting were well worth the wait for Nicole!

HARD WORK, BUT WELL WORTH IT

Ryan relocated to the Janesville area with his young family after he was displaced from his position with UPS due to CZU Lightning Complex Fires. He was receiving unemployment, but was determined to train in a new career to be able to support his family. He came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) in Susanville for WIOA assistance with obtaining a Class A Heavy Tractor-Trailer Driver license through Shasta College.

Ryan met with a Career Center Advisor (CCA) and together they created a plan for his training program. He received assistance with the required Drug Testing, Physical, mileage reimbursements due to the great deal of travel involved, as well as assistance in paying for his utilities and work attire once he had received a job offer. Ryan achieved his Class A license and is now working for Ferrellgas in Susanville and is enjoying his new career. It was hard work, but well worth it.

A GREAT PARTNERSHIP & TWO GREAT NEW NURSES

Krystin and Kasey both attended the Lassen Community College Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) Program for the 21-22 school year with training assistance through Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) in the Susanville office, and achieved their LVN Licenses in the summer of 2022. Neither had worked for about a year while they were in training. Both applied for LVN positions with Modoc Medical Center in Alturas, which has a new and updated facility. They were offered LVN positions, given they would participate with AFWD in On-the-Job Trainings (OJTs), due to their lack of paid experience.

They both worked with their Career Center Advisor (CCA) who helped them to evaluate their goals and create training plans. Over the course of their OJTs, there was a great deal to learn about caring for patients in the facility. They both completed their trainings successfully and have become great nurses. They both expressed they love their positions and are grateful to have had the assistance of AFWD with both the classroom trainings and the OJTs. Here’s to a great partnership between Modoc Medical Center and AFWD!
Lassen County Q3 Statistics

Unemployment Information

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 03/23:

CALIFORNIA: 4.3%
LASSEN COUNTY: 6.2%

TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:

1. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES
2. AG, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING
3. ADMIN, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT & REMEDIATION

Lassen County Q3 Statistics

ONE STOP VISITORS: 1,338
TOTAL AFWD BUSINESSES SERVED: 1,763
TOTAL AFWD CLIENTS ENROLLED: 684

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