

Community

Coordinator

Report

Lassen County

APRIL – JUNE

2014

2014 JOB FAIR

Creative marketing attracted several hundred job seekers to this year's job fair at the Lassen County Fairgrounds. A line of early bird job seekers gathered outside the doors in interview attire, resumes in hand ready to find work Saturday, April 12, 2014. Twenty-one employers gathered to meet job seekers face to face. Jensen Hall was buzzing with excitement from both employers and job seekers! Several employers conducted on the spot interviews, while many others provided helpful information and clarification about their hiring processes.

Employers and job seekers alike found the job fair worthwhile. Aaron Barnes, Owner of Lassen PC was pleased with the fair's organization and the flow of job seekers. Yvonne Hawkes of Lassen Community and Social Services was able to guide interested applicants through their complex hiring process.

Business and Career Network, Career Center Advisor Leslie Scott stated "This is the best job fair I have been a part of. The enthusiastic employers may be a sign of a turnaround in the local economy." Job seekers also reported encouraging stories from the job fair. Stormy Baird, a participant in Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. youth program was hired as a caregiver at Eagle Lake Village. Another client of AFWD, Inc., Karen Santana, was hired to be an office manager at Impact Construction.

All in all, the 2014 job fair was a successful event that connected employers and job seekers, and provided both parties with a chance to make new connections and gain useful information.

Everyone is looking forward to next year's job fair!



Career Opportunities with California Highway Patrol

California Highway Patrol worked with Business Service Representative Terri Hiser-Haynes on outreaching to the local community for Safety Dispatcher and Cadet Positions. On May 7, 2014, Officer Stefanie Barnwell and Public Safety Dispatch Supervisor Jennifer Griffith presented a PowerPoint presentation addressing the requirements and study assistance for the upcoming Public Safety Dispatcher application and exam processes.



Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify what skills, personality traits and job environment atmosphere this position requires. Officer Barnwell provided in-depth study tools and on-line sites to assist interested candidates in the preparation for the testing dates.

Sergeant Linda Powell, Public Information Officer Shawn Simmons, and Officer Stefanie Barnwell conducted a presentation focusing on job specific skills for a California Highway Patrol Cadet career path.

Overview of California Highway Patrol included:

- *Physical Abilities Test
- *Successful Officer Attributes
- *Pay Scale and Benefits
- *Law Enforcement Academies
- *Career Advancement Opportunities
- *Retirement



Officer Barnwell stated, "Susanville has one of the best turnouts for both of the informational workshops. Attendees were prepared and asked great questions. In fact, I had to research several questions and get back to the attendees with answers. We have been impressed with the tremendous amount of interest from this community".

PIO Shawn Simmons expressed the benefits of partnering with Alliance for Workforce Development in future outreach and recruitment needs. This relationship not only benefits the business but is invaluable to the people looking into joining the CHP team.



AFWD One-Stop Statistics

Lassen County Visitors
16,129

Business Services

Business Served	2,082
Recruitments	11,389
Positions Filled	3,102
Training Assistance	461

Program Services

Total enrollments P/Y 2013-2014

Adult	429
Dislocated Worker	403
Youth	218
Employed	829

Unemployment Rate

Butte	7.9%	Plumas	9.2%
Lassen	8.6%	Sierra	9.4%
Modoc	9.1%		

What's Your Dream Job?

One of the questions asked of youth when they first start in AFWD's Youth Program is "What is your dream job?"

Michael Chapman's dream job was to work as a barber. Michael participated in Lassen's Youth Program. He had moved to Susanville from Visalia, staying with an aunt and her family. AFWD staff assisted him with researching barber colleges, but almost all of them were private schools and out of his reach financially.

His first goal was to work, so he could gain independence and reach his future goals. After attending the Youth Program's workshops and receiving individual assistance, he gained employment at McDonald's in Susanville, where he learned extensive customer service skills. That summer, Michael returned to Visalia and was soon able to follow his passion of becoming a barber!

After contacting Michael Burt's Barber Apprenticeship Program in Elk Grove, CA, Michael is now working as an apprentice barber. The state-listed apprentice program takes two years to complete. Michael attends barber school once a month and works full time at the Joyce Caldwell Barber Shop in Visalia.



Career Opportunity

When it comes to environmentalism, Ian MacLeod is as green as it gets!

Ian moved to California after accepting a seasonal position as a Field Biologist. He was finishing up his Master's Thesis in Fisheries while working through the summer. As his job was coming to an end, he began searching for full time employment in an organization that would utilize his education and passion for conservation.

Ian worked diligently with the staff at the Business and Career Network with becoming job ready. With the help of an AFWD Career Center Advisor, Ian landed a job with a State Agency, the Delta Conservancy in Sacramento, California. He is thrilled to be involved in the policy and conservation of such an important resource as the Sacramento Delta!



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN

DELTA CONSERVANCY

A California State Agency



Her Bucket Overflowed

Some people are born with the drive to not only succeed but excel. This would definitely describe Araceli Baustista, a senior at Big Valley High School in Bieber. While attending school, she participated in a variety of activities while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Her determination to succeed stemmed from her knowledge that she would be the first in her family to go to



college. Working with her Youth Advisor throughout the year, she applied to many scholarships and was awarded many that she applied for, including the coveted McConnell Foundation scholarship in the amount of \$30,000! Eventually, she had to be advised as to which scholarships to accept as her “bucket overflowed”, meaning the amount of scholarship she received exceeded the cost of attendance!! Araceli is an inspiration to not only her family but to everyone she knows. In the fall of this year she will be attending Chico State University and study Nursing. Congratulations Araceli!!



Time for a Change

There's a commonly stated statistic that people change careers in their lifetime an average of seven times. Sheena Johnson was ready for one of those times. Sheena had lost her job as a Material Handler as part of the federal GWOT (Global War on Terrorism) layoffs at Sierra Army Depot. Although she had applied to similar job openings with federal contactors at Sierra Army Depot, her heart wasn't in returning to logistics. She came to the Lassen Business and Career Network seeking help with her job search efforts.

Sheena had previous experience in retail and had a short stint as a secretary at a local accounting firm. She and her Career Center Advisor developed a plan to launch her into an office/clerical career. She hoped to find something with some accounting or bookkeeping responsibilities. Her experience with Excel was with an older version, but she wanted to upgrade her skills using a newer version, and perhaps learn the QuickBooks program. She was able to do this with an enrollment in "Element K" courses. With her retail background and amazing proficiency with Microsoft Word, her Advisor gave her some strategies to redevelop her resume emphasizing her customer service and office skills. Sheena regularly checked the job board, applied to all job referrals, and her resume was referred to several customized recruitments. She had several interviews.

Sheena hit the jackpot with her application to an Account Clerk II opening with Lassen Works. She qualified to take the written exam, passed it ranking number one, and then was offered an interview. Her Advisor suggested she complete a mock interview to help prepare for the interview and she agreed. Equipped with tips provided at the mock interview, Sheena aced her interview and was offered the job. Sheena is appreciative for all the help she received and told her Advisor that she is telling everyone to go to the Business and Career Network!

