The Business and Career Network hosted the 2015 Lassen Job Fair on Saturday March 28, 2015 from 9am-12pm at Lassen County Fairgrounds. Enthusiastic job seekers dressed for interviewing with employers arrived early with resumes in hand waiting for the doors to open. Lassen County’s business community was well represented with 26 employers on site actively recruiting for their companies and organizations.

Businesses included:

- Susanville Supermarket IGA
- California Highway Patrol
- Lassen Ale Works
- Skinny’s Ribs & Bibs
- Homme’s Landscape
- Round Table Pizza
- US Bank
- Sierra Army Depot
- US Army
- AECom/URS
- Dollar General
- WestCare
- High Desert State Prison (HDSP)
- Lassen Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
- Zaengles Carpet One Floor & Home
- El Tepeyac Grille/Lassen Steaks
- Sierra Jewelry Company
- Carry on Special Care
- Lassen Rural Bus/Paratransit Services
- Lassen County Sheriff Department
- Lassen Union High School District
- Diamond Mountain Casino & Hotel
- Eagle Lake Village
- Lassen Works and Community Social Services
- Payless Building Supply
- California Correctional Center (CCC)

Employers and job seekers expressed that the job fair was a very beneficial event for the community.
A Rewarding Relocation

Margaret Milnes-Campbell recently relocated from Redding to Lassen County to be closer to her family. With previous experience in the law enforcement field, she was looking for a related career here in Lassen County. Margaret had already been job searching and had interviewed for a Dispatcher position with the Lassen County Sheriff’s Department when she first met with a Career Center Advisor with Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD).

Margaret really wanted to get this job. Yet, she worried that she would not be able to meet the qualifications of the position, as she lacked some of the specific skills required. The Business Services Representative for AFWD contacted the Lassen County Sheriff’s Department to see if an On-the-Job training would benefit their department and established this was a good action plan for both Margaret and the Sheriff’s Department.

Her Career Center Advisor assisted her with assorted costs associated with her training, and she started her new position in January. During her 16 weeks of OJT, Margaret has learned how to receive and process incoming telephone and voice radio calls, use radio to dispatch necessary emergency units, process police warrants, perform administrative support, operate Lassen County computer equipment/software, and many other essential tasks.

She has been successful in her training and is now a full-fledged Dispatcher with Lassen County Sheriff’s Department. Great job, Margaret!
Starting over Isn’t Easy!

“Starting over is never easy, but sometimes when we’re faced with major challenges we manage to overcome obstacles and achieve much more than we dreamed was possible”.

Kelli Lidie worked in the public relations field for many years and suddenly found herself unemployed and uncertain of her future. She decided to move to Susanville to be closer to family. Kelli met with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) after being referred by a friend and together they created an employment plan. Her CCA referred her to several positions, but one stood out for Kelli. The Lassen County Child Support office was recruiting for a Child Support Specialist I. This position intrigued Kelli and she was eager to apply with Lassen County. With the assistance of her CCA, she submitted her application and resume and was soon interviewed. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) staff worked together with Lassen County Child Support to develop an On-the-Job Training (OJT) plan for Kelli to help her gain the skills and experience she would need to be successful in this new and exciting industry.

Kelli started her new position with the Lassen County Child Support Department on February 9, 2015 and completed a four month OJT with flying colors. Kelli is a very talented and enthusiastic member in the department and her supervisor are thrilled to have her on their team. Staff at the Lassen Business and Career Network are very happy for Kelli’s success and wish her the best for a long career with Lassen County.
Small Town Girl Accomplishes Big Goal

Manda Howard has wanted to be a Peace Officer for a very long time. This talented young woman knew this exciting career was her goal from an early age. Manda has lived in Susanville her entire life. She grew up around local law enforcement officers who have been instrumental in mentoring her during her journey of becoming a Peace Officer.

As soon as she was able, she participated in law enforcement ride-along’s where she observed the vast activities of law enforcement. This fueled Manda’s desire of going into a career in law enforcement even more. Manda researched what education and experience was needed for this career and then decided to meet with her Career Center Advisor at Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) to create an employment plan. Together, they created a customized financial, educational and employment plan that outlined all of the necessary steps Manda needed to take to make her career goal come true.

Manda applied and was accepted at the College of the Redwoods Police Academy in Eureka, CA. She was concerned about passing some of the required curriculum, especially the fire arms/weapons and defensive driving modules. Manda not only passed all of the modules, but she graduated 7th in her class. Manda decided she wanted to give back to the community she grew up in and focused her job search in Lassen County.

Before graduating, Manda’s Career Center Advisor worked with her on creating a precise job-specific resume. She then submitted applications to the City of Susanville Police Department and Lassen County Sheriff’s Department and is interviewing at both agencies. We wish you much success in your new career.

Thank you Manda, for deciding to serve our community.
Davis Cracks the GED Code!

“Cupcakes for all!” was the cry of celebration in April when Jake Davis became the first Lassen youth to pass the new GED. When the GED was changed in January of 2014, preparing for and passing the new exam proved to be a rigorous, arduous task for many youth in the northeast corner of California — but not anymore!

Jake Davis came to the Lassen Business and Career Network looking for help with obtaining his GED. His uncle owns a business in La Jolla, which designs and installs home theatre/entertainment systems. His uncle offered Jake a paid internship as an installation technician if he would get his diploma or equivalent. With that incentive looming, Jake’s Career Center Advisor pointed him in the direction of taking the GED Ready, the online GED diagnostic. Jake scores were slightly below where they needed to be to insure passing, so the next step was to secure a tutor to help him prepare for all four subject areas of the GED.

In the meantime, Jake’s Career Center Advisor was preparing him for the world of work with pre-employment and life skills training through the Youth Program workshops. As Jake’s tutor confirmed he was ready for each test, he scheduled and passed each one from late January through March. The subject of Math proved to be his nemesis. Although his tutor thought he was ready, he did not pass on the first try. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), having secured a new tutor who specialized in Math, ensured that Jake received the extra help to pass.

With some relocation assistance from AFWD, Jake started his new job with HD, Inc. in mid-May. Congratulations Jake for accomplishing your goal, good luck in your future endeavors.
“I’m more social and I like everyone I work with”. These are not words that would have flowed from Josh Brackett’s mouth nine months ago. Josh came to the Lassen Youth Program with low self confidence in both his abilities and social skills. Wary of people in general, his Career Center Advisor gradually pulled him out of shell. Josh was a high school graduate, but had never held a job before. Through participation in life skills and pre-employment training, his advisor prepared him to search for work. The next step was helping him gain some work experience and work maturity through some excellent soft skills mentoring.

His Career Center Advisor contacted Penny Arzt, Executive Director at Lassen Senior Services. Arzt mentors many referrals from the Lassen County Sheriff Department in their senior meals program and the two believed this would be a good fit for Josh. Josh interviewed with Arzt and the wheels were in motion to have him start a Work Experience. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) assisted Josh with obtaining a Food Handlers Certificate, a requirement for working in the Lassen Senior Services kitchen.

Josh had been successfully working for a couple of weeks doing dishwashing and food prep for Lassen Senior Services when his Career Center Advisor was approached by Arzt about having Josh train as a delivery driver. Unfortunately this could not be done through a Work Experience. AFWD discussed with Arzt the possibility of hiring Josh and having him learn the delivery driver position through an On-the-Job Training (OJT). Josh holds the distinction of being the first Youth OJT in Lassen County. He is now confidently delivering meals to seniors in the community and filling in where needed with other kitchen duties at the Senior Center.
Shannon Legerton

Shannon Legerton came to the Business and Career Center after her limited-term position came to an end. Being a single parent, Shannon knew she had to find fulltime employment to support her family. Unsure of where to start her job search, she met with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) who assisted Shannon in identifying her transferable skills and creating a resume that reflected all she had to offer a potential employer.

After learning that many of her family members have careers in law enforcement and this career field has always fascinated her, Shannon and her CCA focused their efforts on creating an employment plan for obtaining a job in a law enforcement. Shannon’s family was excited to learn she was pursuing a career in law enforcement and provided her with the support she needed to obtain this goal. With the assistance of her CCA, Shannon applied for a Correctional Officer position with Lassen County. Soon after applying, she received a conditional offer of employment with the Lassen County Sheriff’s Department for a Correctional Officer position. Shannon knew her lack of education and hand-on experience in this career would make learning her new job difficult. That’s when Shannon’s CCA met with the Business Services Representative to discuss the opportunity of partnering with the Sheriff’s Department with an On-the-Job Training (OJT) for Shannon, which they happily agreed to do. After four months of on-the-job training, we are very happy to announce that Shannon has successfully completed her OJT and doing well in her new position. Shannon is now well on the way to having a long and success career in the field that she loves.
Michael “Chance” Loflin

Chance was referred to Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) after applying for a position at the Lassen County Sheriff’s Department. He submitted his application for a Correctional Officer position with Lassen County and was concerned that having a lack of law enforcement knowledge would limit his chances of being offered the position. He has been working part-time as a Computer Instructor at a local elementary school and completing his bachelor’s degree. With recently becoming a newlywed and finding out that his wife is expecting their first child, he decided he needed to find fulltime employment. Through the assistance of his Career Center Advisor (CCA), they came up with an employment plan aimed at assisting him achieve his goal of becoming a Correctional Officer with the Sheriff’s Department. Chance’s CCA met with the Business Services Representative and discussed the opportunity of partnering with the Sheriff’s Department for an On-the-Job Training (OJT) with Chance. Happily, the Sheriff’s Department agreed that an OJT would benefit Chance as well as their agency.

Chance was assigned a four month OJT that enabled him to receive the training and skills necessary to become proficient in the employer’s required job-specific core competencies and essential functions. Chance’s supervisor reports that he has successfully completed his OJT and says, “Chance has surpassed his expectations”. Chance now has a great career and is also the proud father of a new baby girl. Congratulations Chance!
Miraya Rodriguez

Miraya Rodriguez has always enjoyed helping people. That’s why she became a Nurse’s Assistant with a local rehabilitation organization. While Miraya enjoyed this position, she felt it offered little opportunity for advancement. Miraya self-initiated enrollment and met with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) to discuss employment options. With the assistance of her CCA, Miraya completed career assessments that helped determine what career fields would be of interest to her. They also created an employment plan that outlined the steps Miraya needed to find gainful employment. Armed with a resume and knowing her transferable skills, Miraya applied for several local positions. One of the positions was with the Sheriff’s Department for a Correctional Officer position. Miraya had never worked in a position like this before, but she knew she had the transferable skills needed to be successful in this career. She knew that the Business Service Representative (BSR) had created a strong partnership with the local Sheriff’s Department, Miraya’s CCA and BSR decided to reach out to the Sheriff’s Department to discuss the opportunity of an On-the-Job Training (OJT). The Sheriff’s Department was happy to partner our efforts in assisting Miraya be successful in this position. In four short months, Miraya completed her OJT and the Sheriff’s Department and is doing well in her new position. Miraya is excited for what her future holds and is happy that she’s in a career. Congratulation Miraya, we wish you much success in your new career!
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

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Program Services

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Unemployment Rate

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