Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) in Susanville has partnered with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) to hold a hiring event to recruit candidates for temporary positions within USFS. The hiring event was held on Wednesday, June 7, from 10:00 – 2:00 at the AFWD office. In all, seventeen potential candidates came out for the event and showed interest in a temporary position. These positions will be funded by a Dixie Fire Grant that AFWD received to directly help with clean-up and restoration from the Dixie Fire. The USFS is currently seeking four (possibly more) laborers to assist their crews in the forests with duties such as; replacing signs, cleaning up burnt/fallen trees, cleaning up campgrounds, painting, clearing drainage ditches, etc. The USFS is also currently seeking two candidates to help with administrative tasks in their local offices.

AFWD would like to thank the USFS for partnering with them as well as her fellow co-workers for helping out at the hiring event. AFWD hopes to get candidates started in their new positions soon.
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, as she has always had a passion for helping others succeed. She came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc (AFWD) in Susanville for WIOA assistance as a job seeker. Nicole worked with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) to participate in an On-the-Job Training (OJT) as a Program Support Clerk I with Lassen Family Services. Nicole has completed her OJT, and among many of her duties she is developing and hosting budgeting and cooking classes for the participants in the community. These classes have become very successful and beneficial to the community. Nicole is enjoying her work and expressed how grateful she is to have had the assistance of AFWD. She looks forward to partnering with AFWD in the future with members of the community. Nicole shared a quote with us for others who have faced similar struggles as she has, “In the end we only regret the chances we didn’t take”-Anonymous.

Lassen College LVN Program

On May 25th, nine students completed the Licensed Vocational Nursing program at Lassen Community College, and their pinning ceremony was held on May 27th. Five of the participants, Tori Dailey, Paul Felix, Violet Giese, Noah Kelley, and Monica Patton, are WIOA participants who received assistance with their training program through the Lassen Office of Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) in Susanville.

Paul Felix was the Class Speaker for the Pinning Ceremony, was recognized as the Valedictorian of the class, and was given the Florence Nightingale award as well for going above and beyond expectations. Noah Kelley was given the Shooting Star award for his growth throughout the program. AFWD is pleased to have been able to assist with the training of these exceptional members of our community, and looks forward to a continued partnership with Lassen Community College and the Allied Healthcare programs. Nursing Director, Christi Myers, recognized and thanked AFWD for “filling the gaps financially” and providing support for several of the students.

A Step Up

Jennifer had received WIOA assistance in 2018 in becoming a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) through the Lassen Community College LVN program. She worked as an LVN in both Clinic and Public Health settings for four years. She had the opportunity to attend Butte College’s LVN to RN Bridge program, which would allow her to take a step up and work toward becoming a Registered Nurse (RN). Jennifer contacted her Career Center Advisor (CCA) to request assistance with the new program. She and her CCA determined the LVN to RN Bridge program would help her to earn an increased wage and have a wider range of job prospects in the Healthcare field in the future. She received WIOA assistance with her training with the purchase of required books, uniforms, equipment, and testing. At the end of May 2023, she completed the Butte College LVN to RN Bridge program. She is scheduled to take the exam to achieve her RN License and has plans to continue moving upward in her career. Good luck Jennifer! We know you can do it!
TEAMING UP WITH CDCR

With the impending closure of the California Correctional Center in Susanville, there are many unanswered questions from the employees. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) teamed up with the Employment Development Department (EDD) out of Redding, to go on-site at High Desert State Prison. AFWD and EDD set up a booth at the main employee entrance on May 9th and 10th and were available to help answer questions the employees had about the potential layoffs. With many employees still unsure what their future at the prison looked like, they were unsure what route they would take if they were laid off. AFWD was able to provide information about the services they offer such as retraining opportunities, new career outlooks, relocation assistance, job placement, resume creation, and unemployment benefit assistance. EDD was able to answer specific questions regarding unemployment benefits, as well as how to apply, and the amounts employees could expect to receive if they were to file. AFWD and EDD along with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation saw several hundred people over the span of two days.

On June 5th and 6th, AFWD staff went back to High Desert State Prison (HDSP) to provide a formal presentation about AFWD and EDD services. At that time, employees of the prison had received their decision letters and were aware of what their employment status would be and what services they might need. Jolea, the Business Service Representative, with AFWD, is happy to report that per California Department of Corrections staff, there will only be approximately eleven people getting laid off.

WORK EXPERIENCE AT AFWD

Adelaide Nielson came into the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) office as a referral. She is a 19-year-old high school graduate who also holds an associate degree in University Studies with an emphasis on Humanities. She had never held a job; and she was requesting help in searching for and securing a job that fit her interests and that offered mentoring.

Adelaide’s dream job is to be an Anthropologist, Archeologist, Forensic Scientist, and/or college professor. She stated that she would work well within the structure of these occupations and the investigative discovery they entail. I was able to set up a Zoom meeting with Dr. Kate Reedy, the Chair of the Anthropology Department at Idaho State University, so that Adelaide could ask questions and learn what an anthropologist/university instructor actually does day-to-day. Adelaide had a list of thoughtful questions, and she got to see a glimpse into her dream occupation. She was inspired and motivated by the interview!

Since it will take time for her to acquire the education required for an advanced degree and because there aren’t any anthropology/archaeology internships in Susanville at this time, we began exploring other work experience options for Adelaide. Based on her self-identified soft skills, her tech skills, and her assessments it was determined that she might do well in a somewhat structured office environment.

The Youth Program Manager, Adelaide, and I agreed that work experience in the AFWD office might be a great fit, so a 10-week WEX was initiated. With a little over a week of her WEX remaining, Adelaide is rocking her job as an Information Clerk in the reception area. AFWD’s Susanville Office Receptionist, has been Adelaide’s direct supervisor and mentor. Adelaide is currently applying for several receptionist/office jobs in the local area.

When asked to list the top three things she learned through this work experience, Adelaide replied, “The three greatest things I learned from this work experience, aside from general office skills, were: how to hold myself to my commitments, how to feel confident in social situations, and how to manage my time and energy.” She went on to say, “Before AFWD I had no idea how to get a job and I felt like I would never be hired due to my lack of experience. My internship with AFWD has given me not only work experience, but the ability to find and apply for jobs, build my resume, interview successfully, and put myself out there. I feel confident in my job search as my internship ends.”
Jolea Clapp, Business Service Representative (BSR), with Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), in Lassen County had the opportunity to attend the California Workforce Association (CWA) Conference in San Diego, California. This year’s theme for the conference was “Clarity Through Action.” At the conference there were over 50 workshops, 5 super sessions, 5 power hour sessions, and multiple vendor booths to visit between sessions. This event is held each year with this year being the 32nd annual conference. Some of the sessions that Jolea was able to attend helped grow her knowledge in succession, strengthening relationships with businesses, rapid response and layoff aversion, and managing stress in the workplace. Jolea was very excited for each session and looks forward to putting her new knowledge to work in her role in Lassen County.

Maggie Lopez visited the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Susanville office seeking assistance in securing employment and obtaining support towards obtaining her high school diploma. While she had previous experience as a Caregiver and had engaged in cashiering, her true aspiration was to pursue a clerical role. Following extensive job search efforts and considerable dedication, Maggie and her Career Center Advisor (CCA) identified that participating in a Work Experience (WEX) program could prove advantageous for her. Consequently, after conducting thorough research, they identified a suitable opportunity within the same office, collaborating with Lassen Works and Community Social Services. Maggie thoroughly enjoys her current position and is actively acquiring new skills. Although she remains vigilant for potential permanent employment prospects, she relishes the present opportunity to expand her knowledge. Additionally, Maggie eagerly anticipates pursuing her high school diploma, recognizing its significance in facilitating the achievement of her aspirations. We commend your determination, Maggie!
Lassen County & AFWD Stats Through Q4

**Unemployment Information**

**Unemployment Rates as of 06/23:**
- **California:** 4.5%
- **Lassen County:** 4.6%

**Top 3 Affected Industry Sectors:**
1. Health Care & Social Assistance
2. Accommodation & Food Service
3. Construction

**Lassen County & AFWD Statistics:**

- **One Stop Visitors:** 6,891
- **Total AFWD Businesses Served:** 688
- **Total AFWD Clients Enrolled:** 754

**Susanville**

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