Community Members Come Together for Children

Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities (Head Start) hosted their annual Health and Opportunities Fair for four days at three site locations in Lassen County. Medical teams from Lassen County Health and Social Services and Dental teams from Smiles for Life provided the necessary screens to children for entry into pre-school and their family members. Follow-up services will be provided to children requiring further services.

Parents were encouraged to visit the various services organizations present for information and assistance in the following:

**Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc.**  Job search, Business services and Lassen Technical Assistance (T.A.) Program

**Budget Mobile**  Mobile phone program (Verizon service)

**Lassen County Public Health**  Drive-Thru Flu Clinic information, Child Lead Protection Prevention Program (CLPPP), Art project station to make Tooth Fairy Boxes.

**Lassen County Economic Development**  Information on heating assistance for propane/natural gas customers Heating Energy Assistance Program

Combined these facilities provide educational and family support services to over 130 Lassen County households at these three sites.
This fall, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was again invited to participate in Lassen College’s College and Career Fair. Local agencies and companies, and many of the Lassen College departments spoke to students about their respective career fields.

Four-year schools in the California State and University of California systems were on hand to provide students with application and program information. Private colleges participated as well. This was an excellent opportunity for the juniors and seniors from many of the Lassen County high schools and charter schools to glean knowledge from the experts about entry into post-secondary education and a choosing a career. Also, Lassen College students were able to learn the transfer requirements needed for the California State and University of California systems.

AFWD provided information to both college and high school students about job seeker services at the nearby Lassen Business and Career Network. Career Center Advisors (CCA) from AFWD offered students a chance to do a quick interest assessment based on Holland's Self-Directed Search. Using their RIASEC (Realistic-doers, Investigative-thinkers, Artistic-creators, Social– helpers, Enterprising– persuaders, and Conventional-organizers) code type results, students could look at featured information on O*NET "bright outlook" occupations in each of the six codes.

CCAs then spoke in depth with students about their educational/career goals and plans. Based on goals of students, CCAs were able to refer students to many of the other agencies and schools in attendance to gain additional assistance.
Financial Aid Workshop

Realizing the importance of financial aid as it pertains to our Youth and training client’s, the Career Center Advisors in Lassen, Plumas, Modoc and Sierra counties were treated to a valuable workshop provided by Lassen Community College’s financial aid division.

Angela Barrier, Financial Aid Technician/Work Study Coordinator and Truitt Evans, a Financial Aid Work Study Student provided information on the application process, eligibility requirements and troubleshooting financial aid.

All student financial aid starts with the completion and filing of a Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application. Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid also can help pay for a computer and for dependent care.

There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Check with your school’s financial aid office to find out which programs the school participates in. For more details about eligibility criteria please contact StudentAid.gov at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

The Career Advisors were able to ask questions and provide scenarios to better understand the financial aid process and ultimately better serve their clients.
A New Direction

After eleven years of working as a Director of Human Resources, it was hard adjusting to being unemployed and even harder when realizing Directors of Human Resources have little open employment opportunities in our local area. Larry Memmott knew that he would have to contemplate a possible career change.

Being unemployed for over 9 months, Larry visited Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. for assistance with a career plan. His Career Center Advisor provided information, suggestions and advice to assist Larry make a career decision. They discussed out of area job search, his transferrable skills and possible training opportunities.

In the end, it was a matter of being in the right place at the right time, as well as recognizing a new career opportunity when it arose, that made the difference to Larry. With his Career Center Advisor’s assistance, he applied, interviewed and was eventually offered employment as a Hotel Manager at High Country Inn.

Larry stated, “He is enjoying his new career change and looks forward to a challenge”.

![Image of Larry Memmott](image1.jpg)

![Image of High Country Inn](image2.jpg)
A Rose By This Name Smells Sweetly Of Success

Andrea Rose was an unemployed recruiting coordinator. She had worked from home recruiting licensed mortgage loan originators and branch managers. She had also done remote administrative work, including web and document design, and social media management for various clients. She had unsuccessfully attempted to secure other remote recruiting work and her administrative work was not enough to support her family. She came to the Lassen Business and Career Network looking for more traditional employment in Susanville. Focused on obtaining office related work where she could use her advanced computer and customer service skills, she met with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) to develop a plan.

With recommendations from her CCA, Andrea made some improvements to her resume. To make her resume more achievement and skill focused, she implemented more action words and more details to accomplishments. Already organized and possessing a superior work ethic, Andrea applied those abilities to her job search. She was in constant contact with her Career Center Advisor, applying to all job referrals and seeking out other openings on her own.

Many of the jobs she was applying to required fiscal or accounting knowledge. Although proficient in Microsoft Office, she felt that some knowledge of QuickBooks would be an asset. Her CCA developed a plan for her to do self-paced QuickBooks lessons on Skillsoft. She completed the course in less than two weeks.

Within a month, Andrea was offered interviews for four of the jobs to which she had applied. One was at the Lassen County Office of Education, two at the Lassen High School District, and one at Northeastern Rural Health Clinic. She was not offered either of the two positions at Lassen High, but they were so impressed with her technological skills, they offered her an on call temporary position as an IT Assistant.

She had no sooner accepted that position than she was offered the job of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer at Northeastern Rural Health.

This was definitely the type of opportunity she had been seeking.

Andrea has been thoroughly enjoying the new challenges of her new job and at last contact, has been appointed to a committee to redesign the agency's website - no surprise!
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Lassen County Visitors
10,574

AFWD Business Services
Business Served 1,092
Service Provided 4,599
Positions Filled 126
Training Assistance 392

Program Services
Total enrollments this quarter
Adult 205
Dislocated Worker 168
Youth 63
Employed 320

Unemployment Rate
Butte 7.7% Plumas 9.1%
Lassen 8.7% Sierra 8.6%
Modoc 9.2%