Alliance for Workforce Development is pleased to share the positive results of the Lassen County Fall Job Fair that took place on Tuesday, November 16th at the Lassen County Fairgrounds Jensen Hall in Susanville, CA. With this being the first in-person job fair in several years there was an amazing turn out from both employers and job seekers alike.

The job fair was host to 26 employers, each with a myriad of different job openings from grocery store clerk, to teacher’s aide, to class A driver and everything in between. Approximately 70 job seekers participated throughout the duration of the event, to take advantage of the diverse job openings available. Employers were able to collect resumes from potential employees, conduct job interviews on the spot and even offer employment at the venue. Susanville Supermarket was able to hire for 5 of their positions, Sierra Cascade Family Opportunities found a Teachers Aide, Lincare found several candidates for their driver technician position, and Lassen County Superior Court will be holding interviews after Thanksgiving from all the applications they received at the job fair. Many other companies were also successful in collecting resumes and scheduling interviews as well and hope to fill their positions very soon.

This event gave our new Business Service Representative, Jolea Clapp, the opportunity to start establishing partnerships with the businesses in our rural community. Those relationships will help to bring future success to Lassen County’s workforce through connections between employers and job seekers alike.
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS
Family Member Opportunities

With the growing need to fill healthcare positions in the Northstate, in collaboration with SMART Workforce Center, Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) launched a new job seeker resource. Healthcare has been a priority sector in Northern California for a long time due to the challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare providers ranging from entry-level to highly skilled. This challenge is even more difficult within the rural areas of our beautiful locale. While we have had an ongoing recruitment strategy in our area, a collateral challenge has been identified.

When recruiting medical providers into the counties we serve, the family members of these relocated individuals needed streamlined job-seeking assistance. Through a partnership between AFWD and SMART, in association with Partnership Health Plan and the many healthcare providers in the counties we serve, we are proud to present the Family Member Opportunities tool found on northstatejobs.com. This tool makes it much easier for the new members of our communities to lay down roots and grow with us.

The Family Member Opportunities tool will make it easy for future residents to connect to the America’s Job Center of California (AJCC) in the county where they will be moving. From the Family Member Opportunities webpage, the user can click on the county that they intend to relocate to and will then be directed to the website of the corresponding AJCC in that area. Once on the proper AJCC website, the candidate can call or fill out a “Contact Us” form. From there, the talented staff at the AJCC will follow up and identify how best to assist the job seeker.

This new tool is a big win for Northern California and will make it easier to retain medical providers and help with the growing workforce need in our area by connecting those who need a job to the employers who are hiring. AFWD and SMART are proud to join forces to assist the healthcare sector and make a positive impact on our community as a whole.

You can check out the website here: 
https://northstatejobs.com/medical-provider-family-member-opportunities/
Airek was enrolled in the AFWD Youth Program in February of 2020. After a little investigating it was determined that Airek had no transcripts of his homeschooling participation, as the school that he attended was not accredited. Undaunted by this, he and his CCA reviewed his options and Airek completed the CASAS basic skills assessment. He scored high, so they knew he was up for the diploma challenge. He started his GED with Lassen Library and was on a roll, until COVID stopped him in his tracks. The GED program was closed. Not wanting to be delayed, he decided to instead pursue the HiSet at Lassen Community College. Once again, he was on a roll, until that program was also closed due to COVID precautions. Months went by without an alternative option.

Airek didn’t give up, but changed his direction towards job search. He and his Career Advisor looked at the job market and made a plan. Once again plans changed when the Lassen Library GED program re-opened! Excited, Airek quickly reenrolled. He dominated each test he took and with great pride achieved success on September 9, 2021 when he passed his last test! Airek received his $100.00 incentive from the Youth Program and he and his Career Advisor celebrated. With that hurdle overcome, they have shifted gears back to job search. Airek recently attended the Lassen Job Fair and is hopeful to find a job in the trades. Knowing Airek, he won’t give up, and his grit and determination will be valuable factors in his future success.

Finding a Future

Mary Petrowski was recently faced with the unfortunate circumstances of loss of employment and legal issues. Mary came into Alliance for Workforce Development looking for help to get back on her feet. After talking to a Career Center Advisor, Mary learned she was eligible for the Youth program and quickly got to work exploring employment opportunities all over town. Mary’s determination to find new employment paid off. Not only did she find a new job, she found two! Mary knows herself to be a very hard worker, so she accepted one full time job and one part time job. After discovering the challenge of the work/life balance, Mary decided to drop one job to focus on the one at Panda Express. Mary is now building a strong financial future for herself and her growing family. Mary’s enthusiasm and determination will continue to lead her down a bright future. We are so happy that AFWD was able to be a part of Mary’s growth and success.
Michelle had been interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, particularly nursing for as long as she could remember, but events in her life had made it seem almost impossible to achieve her goals. She had already been successfully attending the Licensed Vocational Nurse training at Lassen Community College for over a semester when she came to the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) in Susanville for assistance. She had relocated to Susanville from Placerville in 2019, and worked hard to not only achieve her high school diploma, but to also meet all of the prerequisite requirements of the Licensed Vocational Nursing program. Prior to being accepted into the program, Michelle had worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant for approximately 3 years.

Michelle met with a Career Center Advisor (CCA) and completed assessments, which showed her interests matched with nursing positions in the healthcare sector, making her an outstanding candidate for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Adult program. Michelle completed the LVN program at Lassen Community College June of 2021, with the assistance of AFWD. She took and passed her LVN Licensing exam, and with the encouragement of her CCA applied for an LVN position with Northeastern Rural Health Clinics. She went on to participate in an On-the-Job Training through a partnership between AFWD and Northeastern Rural Health Clinics, in which she excelled. She is currently happily working in the Urgent Care there.

Michelle has always been very eager to express her gratitude for the assistance she has received. With tenacity and grit, she has managed to break through all of the barriers in her path. In just 2 years, she has managed to turn her life around. Congratulations, and good luck in the future, Michelle!

Jade had been working as a Home Care Aide in Chico when she was laid off due to Covid-19. She relocated to Susanville, and when the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program became available at Lassen Community College, she enrolled. She had already been successfully attending the CNA training at Lassen Community College when she came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) in Susanville for assistance. She was working hard to meet all of the prerequisite requirements of the Licensed Vocational Nursing program as well.

Jade met with a Career Center Advisor (CCA) who helped her to evaluate her goals and interests. The results showed her interests were aligned with several different nursing positions in the healthcare sector, making her an excellent participant for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Dislocated Worker program. Jade completed the CNA program at Lassen Community College with the assistance of AFWD for her uniforms and equipment. She took and passed her Certified Nursing Assistant exam as well. With the encouragement of her CCA she applied for multiple CNA positions in the area. Jade was offered and accepted a position as a Certified Nursing Assistant with Body Fit, Plus in September of 2021. She is now earning a great wage and really likes her new job. She still plans to pursue a higher degree in the healthcare sector in the future, but is very happy with her position at this time. She expressed appreciation for the assistance and support she has received.
As we closed out the year 2021, Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) in Lassen County was proud to report to the Lassen County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on October 19, 2021. Amy Velazquez, Director of Business Services presented the end of year data and highlighted the upcoming grants received in response to disasters of the Dixie Fire. In the past, similar grants have included providing clean-up and repair crews for damages caused by floods, storms, and the Camp Fire. These workers and crews are provided at no cost to businesses or organizations and can perform most duties associated with clean up and repair of damage even including administrative office work.

This grant covers work to be performed in Lassen, Plumas, Tehama, and Butte Counties. The initial worker contracts will go through the end of this year with the option of being extended for a total of up to 12 calendar months. This grant will not only benefit the communities that have suffered damages from the Dixie Fire but will also help members of the community get back to work. AFWD is currently working side by side with local officials and organizations to accomplish this goal.

AFWD was also proud to report a low unemployment rate for Lassen County. As of August 2021, Lassen County reported a 5.6% unemployment rate, which has been steadily declining since the COVID-19 pandemic, down from 8.3% in the year prior.

In addition, in the program year 2020-2021, AFWD was able to serve 7,935 customers in our office with a variety of WIOA services and assistance such as job search, resume review, skills testing, classroom training, career exploration, and On-The-Job Training (OJT). AFWD provided support to 113 Lassen County businesses with recruiting, retention, Human Resources Support, and a variety of other services. AFWD reimbursed a total of $51,452 in wages back to Employers utilizing WIOA OJT funds. In turn, this funding offers support and allows employers in Lassen County to train and upskill local Job Seekers.

AFWD is proud to provide services to the Employers and Job Seekers in Lassen County as they RISE from not only the COVID-19 pandemic but the disastrous Dixie Fire as well!
Welcome Jolea Clapp

Jolea Clapp was hired as the Business Service Representative for Lassen County. She was previously employed by Gallo Sales Company, before their closing, wherein she was a Sales Representative for Northeastern California. Jolea enjoys working with the public and the position with AFWD caught her attention as something she thought she would excel in and could contribute her experience to the business community in her hometown.

Jolea was born and raised in Lassen County. She has numerous ties to the businesses and business owners throughout the area, as she has always participated either by herself or with her children during youth sports, 4-H, Cub Scouts, and numerous community events and fundraisers. These personal relationships, as well as her former position with Gallo, have allowed her to build a healthy business relationship with the Employers in our small community; she looks forward to continuing to work with them to help them thrive. Jolea’s enthusiasm, dedication, and passionate approach to her work as well as her desire to always put businesses first will surely help her thrive as the Business Service Representative and help businesses in Lassen County flourish!
AFWD-America’s Job Center of California

Unemployment Information
July 2021 - November 2021

Unemployment Rates
(As of: Nov. 2021)
California 5.4%
Lassen County 3.8%

Lassen County - 2nd Quarter

One-Stop Visitors: 2,593
Businesses Served: 69
Business Services: 597

AFWD
Clients Enrolled: 725