The 2015 Labor Law Update at Modoc Business & Career Network was held on January 28, 2015. Seventeen employers throughout Modoc County attended the popular annual workshop presented by Traci Holt, PHR and Executive Director of Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. The workshop provided local businesses with the chance to learn the latest changes to California employment law and how they can apply them to their businesses. Some of the topics included Cal/OSHA Reporting, Paid Sick Leave (AB 1522), wage and hour changes, protections for unpaid Interns and Volunteers (AB 1443), and driver’s licenses for undocumented persons (AB 60), Public Assistance, Public Reports (AB 1792), Prevention of Abusive Conduct (AB 2053), background checks, and workplace safety. Mrs. Holt also provided information on required postings & notices and covered information on which laws apply to your type of business.

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Also included was a discussion on social media policies, meal and rest breaks, and also employer’s suggestions for best practices to ensure compliance with meal and rest breaks laws. Another great topic of discussion was the top ten reasons some employers face litigation. The workshop was well received and Modoc County businesses were thankful to have this annual local workshop to help them stay up to date on the latest labor laws.
Modoc office staff member Erika Mariscal was given the chance to attend the Job and Career Transition Coach (JCTC) training held February 9th through February 11th, 2015 in Chico, CA. The training was presented by Richard Knowdell, who is known around the world for his training and certification of career coaches, while utilizing fun and easy to use Career Card Sort Decks. There are four different card sort decks, which include Career Values, Motivated Skills, Occupational Interests, and Leisure/Retirement Activities. Trainees were able to enjoy working in groups to learn new skills, career development techniques, and ideas to assist clients in achieving their life goal.

The training provided participants information on several types of assessments coaches could utilize with clients based on needs and what would be best for each individual. Best practices were presented including listening to a client without interrupting, taking notes and letting the client express what they want. Richard Knowdell expressed the importance of not telling clients where to go or what to do, but rather help them along the path they choose. This assistance is provided by using assessments and/or card sorts such as the motivated skills which will help the clients determine his or her proficiency and motivation in 51 transferrable skill areas. The Career Coach also has the choice to use the value sort deck which is an effective assessment tool for job seekers of all ages and various stages. During the training participants learned several steps that will help assess each individual’s motivational skills as well as pinpoint career values and interests. The instructor also presented ideas to utilize with clients including making a list that includes a range of job options to help them focus on what they want and setting a career goal. Richard explained in great detail about how coaches can assist with setting a career goal by making a list of the step by step process that will allow clients to reach their potential and meet the goal. This training was interactive, fun, and helpful to all who attended.
This Quarters Success Stories

Modoc Business and Career Network partners with several local agencies including Training, Employment, and Community Help (TEACH), Modoc High School, Big Valley High School, Early Head Start, and local businesses to provide services to the youth population. Additionally, in recent months several prospective clients have been referred by word of mouth from previous participants.

Modoc Business and Career Network currently has five youth enrolled in the program. There are several other young people interested in becoming part of the program that are meeting with youth advisors to establish eligibility. This fiscal year, we have placed two very deserving youth clients into work experiences to assist them with learning and work skills so that they become more employable. One of those work experiences recently resulted in the client becoming successfully employed. Several of the participating clients will be obtaining high school diplomas by June 2015 and moving towards their futures. Congratulations to all the youth clients for staying on track and doing such a great job!

Madison Beahan came into Modoc Business & Career Network in August 2014. She was interested in re-enrolling into high school so that she could obtain her high school diploma, learn the required skills to successfully job search, and obtain employment. Madison has been actively participating in the youth program and staying on track with school. She has successfully obtained all her credits for her junior year, staying on track with her senior year credits, is maintaining a 3.4 GPA, and working part-time as an Office Assistant at New Day Academy. Madison will be graduating in May 2015 from high school and plans on attending community college to obtain an Associate’s degree in General Studies so she can transfer to a 4 year college and pursue her dream job of becoming a Criminal Profiler.