

Planning Ahead for P2E



Speaker Heather Chavez, P2E Coordinator

While the Prison to Employment (P2E) grant of 2019 may have expired, staff from Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) and the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) are already preparing for the eventual release of a new grant to help those trying to navigate parole and probation conditions while seeking employment.

Career Advisors from the eleven county NoRTEC region met together in Redding to talk about best practices

and ways to improve the program. Heather Chavez, Director of Youth Services for AFWD and the Prison to Employment Coordinator for the NoRTEC region kept the group engaged with an interactive group of activities. Advisors were also able to provide input and share their client's success stories.

The group is eager to meet again to be prepared to implement their suggestions when the new P2E grant is released. The P2E grant was heralded by the Career Advisors as a huge success. P2E not only positively affected the clients that were enrolled in the program, but also the Career Advisors that worked with them. Currently, the program is being studied by researchers from the University of California, Riverside to learn more about the impacts of supportive services and employment services for the justice-involved. Locally, Modoc County enrolled a total of four individuals in the P2E program. These clients were placed in On-the-Job Training opportunities with the Modoc County Public Works department. They were exposed to a range of competencies including construction and remodeling on the Health Services building, maintenance and landscaping on County properties and chainsaw and chipper operation in clearing fuel breaks in the Cal Pines area.

AFWD Welcomes Telene Johnston

Greetings to all! My name is Telene Johnston and I moved to Modoc County at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. My fiancé and I spent our time of isolation developing our property in the hills of California Pines. I started my local job search in earnest at the end of 2021, and met Stacy Snow at Alliance for Workforce Development, (AFWD) during Microsoft Office and typing proficiency testing for a position I applied for at the local Medical Center. After my testing appointment, I discussed the open position of Receptionist for the Alturas AFWD office. I applied for that position, and after interviewing, I was offered the job and very happily accepted!

I've always had a desire to work for a non-profit where I can make a difference in people's lives, and am grateful for this opportunity to bring my decades of customer support and technical experience to the workplace.

During my three months at AFWD, I've especially enjoyed helping those who come through our doors and just need that little extra boost to get them going on the right path. Coming from the San Francisco Bay Area, I have much experience interacting with people from all walks of life; I love being able to bring non-judgmental understanding to the workplace, and to see the positive effects in people's smiles as they leave the office.

I look forward to a bright future with AFWD, assisting the locals with reaching their dreams, as I continue on my own bright path forward, connecting with my community and helping all things blossom and grow.



Making Friends and Building Relationships

The limitations that COVID imposed made it difficult to visit our partners both locally and in our outlying areas. With the loosening restrictions, the Modoc office has been a whirlwind of outreach!

The Youth staff teamed up with the Modoc Resource Coordinator to visit longtime partners and keep them up-to-date on programs and services. Together, they were able to visit Modoc County Social Services, TEACH, the Sheriff's Office, Adult Education and the AMY (Advancing Modoc Youth) Coordinator, Tanya Ramming. It was great meeting some new staff and seeing familiar faces as we shared our respective services.



Modoc AFWD Staff, Telene and Stacy

#workingtogetherworks



Class A Commercial Drivers Coming to Modoc County

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) has been partnering with TEACH Adult Education (AE) to provide assistance and support to Modoc County residents attending the Spring 2022 Shasta College Commercial Driver's Program. TEACH AE has provided individuals with assistance in filing the FAFSA application for financial aid and the Shasta College application to become a student, registering for the Shasta Commercial Driver's classes and provided tablets to those in need for the online portion of the class. AFWD offered assistance to eligible individuals with career guidance, case management support and funding for the required costs of the program.

Jim White was referred to AFWD by TEACH for possible assistance with the required costs associated with the Commercial Driver's Program as he did not qualify for financial aid and was unemployed at the time. Jim met with an AFWD Career Center Advisor and was determined to be eligible for assistance with the required costs of the Shasta program through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. Those required costs included tuition, Drug Testing fee, DOT Physical Exam and DMV Permit Test fee totaling approximately \$600.00.

The first 8-week session of the course was setup as Distance Learning (entirely online) to prepare for the Commercial Driver's License Permit test. This online course was a first for Jim as a normal day for him did not involve accessing the Internet or email at all. But he doggedly tackled each assignment and with encouragement from his wife and guidance from AFWD staff successfully passed the online course and the permit test at DMV.

The second 8-week session of the course involved instruction in the pre-inspection process required by the DMV before driving a truck and hands-on driving practice in Shasta College trucks. 15 hours of hands-on driving practice was required in order to be eligible to test with the DMV for the Class A license. A number of factors made achieving the 15 hour driving requirement a challenge and at times it seemed out of the scope of possibility. AFWD staff began networking and was able to place Jim in a paid position through the Modoc Shared Stewardship Partnership where he could gain driving hours with a licensed CDL driver while working on the job. Jim quickly attained the remaining driving hours needed, successfully passed the DMV CDL driving test and is now a licensed Class A driver! The Modoc Shared Stewardship Partnership plans to utilize Jim as a Class A licensed driver on projects on the Modoc National Forest. Congratulations, Jim!



Women's Business Summit - SBA

AFWD recently had the opportunity to witness the first-ever Small Business Administration's Women's Business Summit! The Small Business Administration (SBA) is a cabinet-level federal agency dedicated to igniting change and sparking action so small businesses can confidently start, grow, expand or recover. This first annual event featured prominent Women in business, such as Assistant SBA Administrator, Natalie Madeira Cofield; SBA Administrator, Isabella Casillas Guzman; Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior; Vice President of the United States, Kamala Harris, and so many more.

Day one of the event was full of inspiring and eye-opening discussion. Executive Director Nicola Corzine with the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center delivered stellar statistics on women in business. She reported, "there are 114% more women entrepreneurs today than there were twenty years ago". Also, 64% of businesses started last year are owned by women of color. Additionally, women-owned US businesses generate \$1.8 trillion each year and employ 9.4 million people.

VP Kamala Harris spoke as well on day one. She addressed the challenges of women in business, particularly minority-women-owned businesses, in terms of wealth disparities, access to capital loans and banking services, and the like. VP Harris talked about the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act to protect women-owned businesses of Asiatic, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent. One quote from VP Harris that stuck with me was a tribute to those who have "the ambition to see what can be without the burden of what has been". She revealed plans to expand access to banking services, community lenders, business development funds, affordable childcare, paid leave and more.



Natalie Madeira Cofield, Asst. Administrator of SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Women's BUSINESS SUMMIT

March 29 - 30, 2022 | Virtual



Day one culminated with excellent discussions. Mellody Hobson, Co-CEO and President of Ariel Investments, discussed the 3P's of investment: People, Purchasing, and Philanthropy. A panel discussion on Building an Equitable Recovery Framework for Women Entrepreneurs featured strategies to mend

the disproportionately female-affected economic recovery from business closures and job loss. Another panel discussion, "From Essential Worker to Essential Entrepreneur: CARE Economy Entrepreneurship Opportunities" addressed issues and opportunities in the caregiving industry and revealed a goal to secure \$1 billion in funding for childcare for moms. Other important topics included Innovation and Investment, Contracting Opportunities for Women-led Firms, Exporting & E-commerce, and the Changing Landscape for the Entertainment Industry.

Day two of the Women's Business Summit featured excellent "Ask An Expert" sessions on several topics, including Innovation and Investment, Certification and Contracting, Accessing SBA Resource Providers, International Trade, and Accessing Loans & Micro Finance.

The entire event was recorded and is available online, along with resource links and relevant information. Visit https://thecenter.nasdaq.org/womens-business-summit-sba-nec/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery to watch this epic event.



AFWD - America's Job Center of California

Unemployment Rates

(As of: JUNE 2022)

California 4%

Modoc 3.9%

Unemployment Information



Top 3 Affected Industry Sectors - Modoc County

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting

Modoc County - Through 4th Quarter

Visitors: 1,163

Businesses Served: 6

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Clients Enrolled: 1,009

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