Location, Location, Location

The Modoc Business and Career Network has a new location to call home: 701 N. Main Street, Suite F, Alturas. This Bear Creek Mall office is also home to TEACH Adult Ed and Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD).

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. can be reached at (530) 233-4161, office hours are: 9am-12pm and 1pm-4pm, Monday-Friday. Resources available include resume and job application assistance, typing certificates, Hot Job wall postings, employment brochures, monthly job readiness workshops, computer lab for job search needs and much more.
Healthcare Career Opportunities Grow in Modoc County!

Healthcare is a priority sector for the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) of which Modoc County is one of eleven Northern California county members with services being delivered through the Modoc Business and Career Network (BCN). Per NoRTEC’s Labor Market Profile and Industry Sector Analysis for Modoc County dated July 2019, the Healthcare and Social Assistance industry sector, “… added 89 jobs over the last five years and is projected to add an additional 88 jobs by 2023. This is the largest growth in jobs by any industry in Modoc County.” This is exciting news for Modoc County jobseekers looking for local career opportunities.

Adin is just one area of Modoc County that is experiencing growth in the Healthcare sector. The Southern Cascades Community Services District (CSD) in Adin offers both health transport services and emergency medical services. The Southern Cascades CSD recently sought assistance from the Modoc BCN with recruitment for three additional Health Transport Drivers for their expanding health transport business, two full-time Paramedics and an On-Call EMT for their emergency services branch.

Additionally, the ambulance department at Modoc Medical Center will be hosting an EMT course beginning in January 2020. This could be your chance to begin an exciting career in the growing Healthcare sector! Visit the Modoc BCN at our new location for more information.
Earlier this summer, Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. assisted Strong Family Health Services with their Native Youth Summit, “Voices of the River”. Youth staff had the opportunity to present a workshop on Soft Skills and Employment to a group of 15 to 18 year olds. The event was hailed as a success with many local agencies participating. Recently a bus full of children came to say thank you to the Business and Career Network for their assistance with this project. The group was full of smiles and laughter as well as a handmade card to say thank you. Before leaving, the group regaled the staff with a beautiful song of thanks in their native language. Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. is appreciative of our close association with Strong Family Health Services.
Naomi Wallis was referred to Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. (AFWD) in June of 2018. Married with two young children, Naomi was struggling to find fulltime employment in Alturas. After meeting with her and reviewing her situation, it was determined that Naomi would not only qualify for the Youth Program, but also a AEBG grant that was being facilitated by CalWORKs and AFWD. Naomi participated in both. The AEBG grant provided employment skills workshops that went over a multitude of topics that included resume and application writing, career assessments, networking and interviewing skills. CalWORKs also assisted with childcare and AFWD helped her with job search. Naomi was an excellent participant and was able to do a short internship through CalWORKs in the Assessor’s Office. Once again, Naomi did her best; however, the position didn’t result in permanent employment. Naomi was not deterred and continued to diligently apply to positions even as her family continued to grow.

Recently, Naomi applied to Modoc County Probation. Law enforcement was on her “career wish list”. Naomi did well in her interview and impressed the Probation Chief with her enthusiasm. Because Naomi did not have any prior work history in law enforcement, she did not secure the permanent position but was instead offered an internship through AFWD’s Youth Program. Naomi recently started her internship with Modoc County Probation and loves it. The Probation Chief is impressed with her work and is hoping that a position will open soon so that Naomi can once again apply. With the skills that Naomi is learning in her internship, she will have some experience in law enforcement that could help her secure that permeant position she has been looking for.
The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Northern California was instrumental in putting together a Small Business Workshop in Lassen, Modoc and Plumas counties. This workshop included presentations by the Small Business Administration (SBA), California Capital Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), US Bank, and Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc., (AFWD). Small businesses and those interested in starting a new business were welcome to attend this free informative workshop. Whether a start-up just beginning a new venture or a small business looking to expand, this free workshop was designed to provide the business owner with a variety of resources.

Those in attendance ranged from people starting a gluten free bakery, a businessman who developed a special utilization of GPS software, to an outfit with outdoor biking tours and a new restaurant with unique Latin American cuisine. All businesses are well suited to our rural Northern California communities. Each agency presented an overview of their services. PTAC gave a lengthy overview describing the free services available to assist small and new business owners to navigate Federal, State, and local government procurement process. There are many websites posting requests for bids on Federal, State, and local contracts. James Aldea, Procurement Counselor explained, “When you know the website and learn the process, bidding on lucrative contracts is not so daunting. We are here to help you every step of the way.”

The local representative from US Bank went over the how banks make their decision on new business owners requesting credit, loans, and in some cases, grants. There are many funding sources available for every type of business. Several business owners in the audience asked questions about who and where to apply for funding, including grants.

The SBA representative for Northern California, David, spoke about various Federal services available to small businesses and start-ups. The SBA works with many different business agencies and will help the business owner by recommending the appropriate agencies. Many business owners stayed for question and answers specific to their business. The presenters were happy to share their insights with this diverse group of entrepreneurs.
National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG)  
Winter Storms 2019

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was awarded Federal/State emergency funds to help provide public and non-profit entities temporary workers for storm related projects due to damage from the winter storms of 2019 in Modoc County. Modoc County was impacted significantly in the Lake City area. Business Service staff from the Modoc Business and Career Network assisted with recruitment of temporary workers for the Modoc County worksite for their storm related project in Lake City. Funding from NDWG will provide Modoc County with 100% funding of wages for a team of six temporary workers for the nine week project. The crew began working in November and is assisting with debris removal and traffic control duties.

Modoc County Administrative Officer, Chester Robertson commented, “To date these team members have shown to be dedicated and hardworking. Not all are willing and able to do this type of work and get up in these hours of the morning. I believe this will be a good investment for the future of these folks and meet the intent of these programs.”

#WorkingTogether
The National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) provided funding for storm clean up labor from the winter storms of 2019 in Modoc County. This grant targeted workers who had experienced a layoff, had their hours reduced due to the storm impacts or had been unemployed 15 out of the last 26 weeks and lived in a storm affected area. Potential workers in Modoc County were assessed at the Modoc Business and Career Network by a Career Center Advisor for temporary storm positions for a crew of six workers for the Modoc County worksite cleaning up storm damage in the Lake City area. The temporary work was designed to enable these unemployed workers to earn an income while adding to their skill set, making them more marketable for future regular employment.

Amanda Raabe was one of the temporary workers chosen to assist the Modoc County worksite with their storm project in Lake City. Amanda had come to the Modoc Business and Career Network after a layoff from a cashier position and requested assistance with job search and career path information. Amanda had a varied job history, but was struggling to find permanent, full time employment after her layoff. She was unsure about a career path that would be a good fit for her, but had fond memories of working as a wildland firefighter in the past. She expressed interest in a temporary storm position in order to build her confidence after the layoff, to earn income and to have the opportunity to explore a new career path. Amanda was chosen for a position on the Modoc County crew and began working in late November. Amanda has completed CPR/First Aid training/certification and stated that she is truly enjoying working outdoors on the clean up project.
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics
PY 2019-2020 Q2

Modoc County

One-Stop Visitors: 672

Businesses Served: 24

Business Services: 93

AFWD Clients Enrolled: 674

Unemployment Rate
(As of: November 2019) 5.6%