As we enter 2021, it brings with it hope, new beginnings and perhaps that new dream job. The landscape of job search and finding candidates has shifted into the digital world and Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) is meeting the challenge of bringing job seekers and employers together through a Virtual Job Fair – “New Year, New Career”.

January 20th AFWD is hosting the virtual hiring event – “New Year, New Career” from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Job seekers will be able to connect with multiple employers (81 at current count) from six Northern California counties. The opportunity to explore career options, consider relocation opportunities and interact with recruiters via chat and video (optional) all while maintaining a safe distance.

Job seekers can upload their resume instantly so participating employers can view their resume and chat with them directly. This is a unique opportunity for job seekers to meet with a variety of employers in and around the north state. Employers and job seekers alike, will get the rare opportunity to interact with each other, exchange job descriptions and resumes and can even conduct on the spot virtual interviews from wherever they are on any device.

AFWD is here to assist with preparing job seekers for the event, resume development and providing a series of virtual job fair readiness workshops. Job seekers can register for the Virtual Job Fair Readiness Workshops by following the links below to register for a workshop.

Direct Link to register for Jan. 7th workshop, 2:00pm PST:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0Gcl-ra1S1mB5S9GXDtVdw

Direct Link to register for Jan. 12th workshop, 2:00pm PST:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uQZMmPCxRTiYXn1mWQZgVg

Job Seekers can register for the Virtual Job Fair at:
https://portal.premiervirtual.com/event/register-jobseeker/3450-year-career-afwd-virtual-fair
Winter storms in 2019 impacted many areas of Modoc County. One hard hit area was the Cedar Pass Campground on the Modoc National Forest. Flooding from winter storms washed out the road crossing and left the main western loop inaccessible to vehicles. Modoc County residents were concerned about the damage and saddened to find this beloved campground out of service. With the support of District 3 County Supervisor Kathie Rhoads, the Modoc National Forest made plans to restore the campground through a varied mix of grants and partnerships.

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was one of the partners who were able to assist with this project. AFWD staff worked with personnel from the Modoc National Forest and Modoc County Public Works to identify labor needs and recruit temporary workers for the project through a Storm disaster grant. This grant provided 100% funding for wages of the project crew which consisted of Modoc County residents who were eligible due to being long term employed or had been laid off from their job. A total of four workers were recruited to remove hazard trees, clear vegetation and debris and repair storm damaged restrooms in the campground. Modoc County Public Works staff provided supervision for the crew and the Modoc National Forest repaired the washed out road utilizing California State Parks OHV grand funding.

The Modoc National Forest stated, “With the help of partners and volunteers, hopefully this Modoc National Forest gem will remain available for future generations of campers and picnickers and this example of effective partnerships can be used to revive other beautiful-but-overlooked destinations in Modoc County.” In addition to benefitting the Modoc community, this project provided temporary workers with much needed income and the opportunity to add to their skill set. Creative partnerships indeed benefit all in Modoc County!
The National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) for COVID19 Temporary Job Creation (TJC) is designed to provide funding for temporary jobs for unemployed workers affected by COVID19. This temporary work supports COVID19 clean-up and sanitation efforts and other disaster-relief jobs in health screening, call-center support, and food bank assistance. Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) staff collaborated with Modoc County CAO, Chester Robertson to identify Modoc County worksite locations appropriate for this program and to recruit eligible candidates for placement. Two workers were chosen for temporary Sanitation Maintenance Worker positions for the first Modoc County worksite at the Health Services facility. The NDWG workers will be assisting with properly sanitizing the Health Services facility using COVID 19 protocols and installing COVID19 protective barrier equipment. This temporary work will provide workers, Phillip and Ryan pictured above with much-needed income during the challenging times of COVID19 and will also give them the opportunity to learn marketable skills during project work. AFWD staff will provide support to both the worksite and the workers and will continue to move forward with Modoc County to establish additional worksites in the near future.
Robert came to the Alturas office of Alliance for Workforce Development looking for help. He was seeking assistance in finding a job, but was dealing with many different complications in his life. After speaking to a Career Advisor about the services that the Youth Program offered, Robert knew that this was what he needed. After enrolling in the program, an employment plan was created based on his employment goals. He and his Advisor set their course on obtaining employment in what they hoped would be a creative field. A professional resume was drafted, proper interview skills were reviewed and appropriate job search clothing was obtained.

Having lost his previous job a couple months back, Robert was struggling financially and faced the prospect of losing his housing. Knowing it would be even more difficult for Robert to find a job while homeless, his Career Advisor worked with him and his landlord to pay his rent. In the meantime, the Resource Coordinator was called by Manager, Dianna Bass, at the local Subway saying she had an urgent need for a Sandwich Artist. Robert’s resume and application were delivered to the Bass for consideration. Robert impressed Bass with his newly honed interviewing skills and was hired for the position. AFWD assisted him with required work clothing. His Advisor also worked closely with Robert on a personal budget to ensure that he meets his monthly expenses and obligations with his new income. Bass says that Robert is doing well at Subway and is well liked by his co-workers. When driving through Alturas, swing by for a delicious Subway sandwich and say hi to Robert.
During the uncertain times of COVID-19 many individuals have had their employment impacted by layoffs, business closures, reduced hours, etc. Temporary jobs funded by the National Dislocated Worker Grant-Temporary Job Creation (NDWG-TJC) program have offered an opportunity for those who have lost their jobs to earn income, network with employers and learn new skills through temporary employment. These temporary positions can provide short term stability and income to help bridge the gap in time until an individual can return to their job or in other cases, the temporary job can open the door to future employment with a new employer or a new career path.

David Brown had relocated to Modoc County and was seeking outdoor employment. He had not been able to find work in his desired career path since relocating, but had been hired as an Enumerator for the U.S. Census. Unfortunately, David was laid off due to COVID-19 impacts before the Census was completed.

David met with a Career Center Advisor from the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) office in Alturas for job search assistance. Through interviews and assessments, David was determined to be eligible for the NDWG-TJC Storm program. This temporary position offered David the chance to work outdoors repairing storm damaged areas on public lands on the Modoc National Forest while working under the supervision of the Modoc National Forest Engineering Department staff. His duties included digging out soil covered culverts and re-armoring them, assisting heavy equipment operators with the repair of a damaged reservoir and cleaning out debris filled cattle guards. David successfully completed a 16 week assignment with this worksite and received positive reviews from his worksite supervisor for his work ethic, reliability and quality of work. Forest Engineer, Chris Bielecki indicated that his staff was impressed with David and that they were making plans to utilize him for future projects. David stated that, “This is a great program and accomplished exactly what it was supposed to. I am very happy.”

Congratulations, David!
Learning New Skills

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) participated in training through UC San Diego at the beginning of October 2020. The training was Training Online Essentials, which with a pandemic still going on, it is important to be versed in multiple facets to help our clients.

Training Online Essentials was a week-long class that all departments within AFWD participated in. The training consisted of a total of 5 modules with each module having a set of overviews, readings, videos, and assignments. Even with the assigned work being tailored more for those who work with job seekers than employers, we were all able to take something away from the week.

Participants' were introduced to new tools that can help them assist clients through online outlets since the in-person activity is still very limited. A few of the tools introduced were Google Forms, Padlet, Google Class Room, and Kahoot, to name just a few. All of these platforms are free for people to use.

Having tools available and at no cost allows us to keep our clients engaged and participating in many workshops or training they are a part of. Being able to have new tools at hand allows AFWD to present material the best possible way for how the times have changed. Keeping material and our programs use relevant to all our clients is of the utmost importance. During this pandemic, we have relied on Microsoft Teams and Zoom a lot. With these new platforms introduced to us, we will continue to grow as a company and put our best foot forward with our clients.

Continuing education plays an important role in businesses. Times are consistently changing, being able to give clients current and accurate information is important. With the current pandemic, we have all had to rely on our computers and the internet more than ever. Having training that focuses on using online applications and programs was a great experience. This training could not have come at a better time. It
Gary initially visited the Alliance for Workforce Development office in Alturas in May of 2020 looking for assistance in finding a job. He had limited work experience and COVID-19 impacts added to his struggle to find work. His career path goal was to work for the Modoc County Sheriff’s Office as a Correctional Officer, but there were currently no openings available. The Career Center Advisor at AFWD suggested a temporary job placement for the time being as a means to generate income and add to his work experience. Gary was placed into a position as a temporary Maintenance Worker with Caltrans under the National Dislocated Worker Grant-Temporary Job Creation (NDWG-TJC) Storm program.

An opening for a Correctional Officer position became available midway through Gary’s term in the Caltrans temporary position. He was successful in interviewing and was offered a Correctional Officer position. But, given his lack of work experience and the hard skills required for the position, the Modoc County Sheriff’s Office requested that he participate in an On-the-Job Training (OJT). An OJT offered the extensive training necessary to train Gary in the skills that he was lacking while supporting his employer with a 50% wage reimbursement during the training period.

The 16 week OJT began on August 3rd. Gary was evaluated on a monthly basis and progressed at a steady rate throughout the training. He successfully completed his OJT in late November. His OJT training supervisor Eddie Martin stated, “It is one thing to achieve a standard or expectation, but another to maintain it. Trainee Smith has demonstrated consistency in both expectations and professional development. I am positive that he will become an asset to the department.” Congratulations, Gary!
Modoc County

One-Stop Visitors: 332
Business Served: 37
Business Services: 372

AFWD Clients Enrolled: 298

Unemployment Rate (As of: November 2020) 6.2%