Rebecca came into the Truckee office looking for work that would get her out of the culture and hours of bartending. She had been a bartender for many years but needed a more self-sustaining position with better hours. Just a few days prior, the Nevada County Court manager had been in the office looking for candidates for a court clerk. We checked to see if the position had been filled. It had not. With our assistance, Rebecca applied for the job on line, and then walked her application and resume down the hall to the courthouse. In a ten-minute period, she had an interview for later that day. After we went over some Interview tips and suggestions, she went over to her interview. She was administered some written tests as well and she passed! At the end of the interview, she was offered the position as court clerk! Rebecca was thrilled that she had found something that was challenging, more self-sustaining, better hours and benefits all due to a visit to the Truckee Business and Career Network office!

Congrats Rebecca!
Malwina Grant, the Nevada County Business Service Representative, in partnership with Christine Hoxsie from Sierra Human Resources Association (SHRA) and Susan George from Nevada County Regional Chambers of Commerce (NCRCC) have worked hard to put on the annual Labor Law update on February 15th 2018.

The 6 hour long seminar not only covered this year’s labor law changes that the HR professionals need to keep in mind, but also offered business essentials that were helpful insights to make HR staff’s work easier. Mike Letizia, who is an accomplished, certified, Senior Human Resource Executive with over 33 years’ experience in the full scope of all HR functional areas, presented the material in a very easily understood and fun manner. His attention to the audience and his willingness to answer endless and very specific questions that the employers/ HR professionals had, made the seminar further beneficial to the attendees. The attendees’ feedback was very positive and appreciative of both the information presented and the format in which it was delivered. Everyone walked away with handouts of the covered material to be able to easily refer to in the future.

The Business and Career Network works hard to support local businesses and ensure that they thrive. The Labor Law Update and Business Essentials Seminar is an example of the educational and informative sessions being provided to employers and their staff members. There are additional interesting and free workshops BSR Malwina Grant is planning in cooperation with Jessica Carr, the Program Manager at Sierra Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and Catharine Bramkamp, writing coach and Chief Storytelling Officer for technology companies. Stay tuned for details.
A few months ago, our AFWD Grass Valley Business Service Representative attended a ribbon cutting ceremony of a newly opened business in Grass Valley - Radius Physical + Sports Rehab.

Alyson Dorfman and Dr. Eric Dickerson are the founders of the clinic. Dr. Dickerson was the Clinic Director of a premier Sports Rehab Consortium, managing a team of doctors, and ranked Top Doctor by Seattle Met Magazine. Alyson, who was born and raised here in Nevada County, supported corporate partners, such as Nordstrom and Costco, in reducing health care spending and keeping employees pain free and operating at their best. Dr. Dickerson believes that the same care that professional athletes receive should be available to the masses, and health care should work for patients first. Radius follows the latest peer reviewed research to deliver cutting edge, yet non-invasive care. You can visit them at https://www.radiusclinic.com/

Soon after opening they were ready to expand their team. Thanks to the connection established via the ribbon cutting ceremony along with a recommendation of the Business and Career Network’s services provided to Alyson by another local business, a relationship formed. Radius Clinic staff had questions regarding their growth and HR, which our Business Service Rep was happy to assist with. Among other things, they learned about the On-the-Job training program and with the help of Business and Career Network they hired a local job seeker for a position of a Rehab Specialist. The job seeker was unemployed and had no previous experience nor formal education in the field, but lots of interest in the industry. The program was a perfect fit for the situation.

A training plan was developed and the new employee is being trained by Dr. Dickerson and is doing well in his new position. Both the clinic founders and the new employee are happy with the way things turned out.

Here is what Alyson had to say about the Business and Career Network:

“Malwina and the OJT program have been integral to our business growth. As a new business, a lot of our revenue gets reinvested into the business immediately. With an OJT’s support, we were able to bring on a new team member and spend the time to train him thoroughly to, ultimately, grow faster and add more jobs to the community sooner.”

The establishment of an OJT at Radius Clinic alongside the additional assistance that was provided is a great example of how Alliance for Workforce Development, and the Business and Career Network can help businesses in various ways towards success.
Having lived in Nevada County for almost 18 years, Anna was excited to join the Business and Career Network as an intern to offer her experience and knowledge of local resources in the community.

Anna is a proud mother of two young children, ages six and three and enjoys serving her community by volunteering as a vocalist at Twin Cities Church. She also performs as Karen Carpenter in a local Carpenters Tribute Band, “Yesterday Once More.” She is excited for the opportunity to debut with the band this coming summer at a local venue, soon to be announced.

Anna fit right in with the Grass Valley Business and Career Network office, and our clients loved her friendliness and knowledge of all the software programs available. Although we were excited to have her intern in our office, it didn’t last long as we had a WIN, WIN with a job placement.

Our Business Service Representative, Malwina received a call from a local business, Merten’s Insurance Company, stating one of their employees had just left. Merten’s was in a pinch and inquired if we knew anyone who would be able to step in and assist. Malwina sent them Anna’s resume immediately and an interview was scheduled. When they interviewed Anna, they loved her and hired her right away. Anna has some big shoes to fill, but we know without a doubt she is up for the challenge.

Congratulations Anna!
Long Term Unemployed

“As I set out on my journey to get a job I knew it wasn’t going to be easy because I believed, perhaps wrongly, that I had two strikes against me. One, my age, I’m a proud senior citizen and two, I had not worked for over 10 years.

Everyone at the Business and Career Network was extremely friendly and helpful. The Resource Center Coordinator, was extremely helpful in advising me that I needed to re-do my application on the job center computers, and after reviewing my resume he gave me some extremely helpful suggestions. During that first visit I also searched the job board for all the employment postings. I ended up finding a half dozen job openings I was qualified to apply for.

Within the next few days I redid my Resume and went back to the job center to use the computer lab to fill out the employment application online. Everyone was so pleasant, patient and helpful. I could not imagine how daunting this whole process would be to someone who has little or no experience in working online, but all the help someone would need to complete this process is readily available at the job center. The Business Service Representative, stopped by when I was completing my application. I chatted with her briefly and told her I was particularly interested in one of the positions. She told me to email my resume to her and she would forward it to the employer.

I was entered in their Applicant pool and I started to get the job postings emailed daily! I live in south Nevada County so this excellent feature of the job center allowed me to save time and gas money!

Within a few days I received an email from a security company I applied with and they asked me to interview.

Very long story, short. I was hired and will begin my training in April at their headquarters office! I am extremely grateful to everyone at the job center who took the time to help me in my journey to find employment! I highly recommend this path to finding employment! What a wonderful service they provide!”

Lynn Miller

Thanks Lynn! Congrats on your new job!
Strengthening Service Through Partnership

In January two members of our partner agency, the Employment Development Department (EDD), visited the Business and Career Network (BCN) in Grass Valley to orient staff in the services EDD provides specifically to veterans. Both representatives are veterans themselves. Robert Grimes (pictured left), and Chad Bradley (pictured right). Though the Veterans Employment Representatives operate primarily in Sacramento and Placer counties, they are able to travel to the Nevada County BCN to meet with veterans in need of specialized services. This is valuable because often veterans are more comfortable opening up to fellow veterans who have a shared experience and can speak their language, making them more willing to engage in services. The EDD representatives worked with staff on how to refer veterans to expanded EDD services. Offerings unique to their program include resume critiques by employers and speed interview events with employers. Since the meeting with the EDD reps, Robert Grimes has travelled to the Grass Valley BCN several times to meet with veterans in need. This partnership expands the services that staff are able to make available to veterans in Nevada County and enhances the opportunities for assistance provided by the BCN.

Thank you EDD for making it easier for our Grass Valley Vets to get services!
Sierra Business Fusion 2021 is a series of six free business events and classes available to local business owners.

The Business Incentive & Kick-Off event held at the Foothills Event Center on February 1st was the inaugural event in the series. The event was organized primarily by David Castaneda from the U.S. Small Business Administration with the help of a few local partners. Speakers from Federal, State, Nonprofit and local government agencies presented programs and services available to entrepreneurs and business owners. The goal of the series is to supplement ongoing business services already being provided in the Sierra Foothills by programs like SCORE, the SBDC and the Business and Career Network, and to spread the word of existing programs and connect businesses with available resources.

Some of the presenters included: USDA, Cal Recycle, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), State of California Employment Training Panel, the Business and Career Network (BCN) and more. The BCN information was presented by Program Manager, Kristine Farrell and the table was manned by Business Service Representative Malwina Grant. Several great relationships were developed as a result of the event and even a few On-the Job Trainings were developed as a result of the new partnerships.
Nevada County
Total Visitors
8,416

Nevada County
Business Services
Business Served  123
Service Provided  661

AFWD
Total Clients
Enrolled:
721

Unemployment Rate
(As of: February 2018)
Butte  5.7%    Nevada  3.9%
Lassen  6.3%  Plumas  11.7%
Modoc  10.5%  Sierra  7.8%

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