“Meet Your Match” Job Fair
In Nevada County

On April 13th the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building held nearly 40 employers from the local area who decided to participate in the job fair. The “Meet Your Match Job Fair” was sponsored by the Regional Chambers of Commerce, the Nevada County Association of Realtors and the Business and Career Network, in Partnership with The Union Newspaper.

The event was a huge success with close to two hundred job seekers coming through the door who were probably attracted by the variety of employers present at the fair.

There were employers from the medical field such as Sierra Family Medical Clinic and Chapa-De Indian Health, tech companies such as Suddenlink Communications, non-profits like Bear Yuba Land Trust, several senior care services such as Eskaton, Atria, and Home Instead, as well as many companies from other trades.

Nevada Business and Career Network also had their own table set up to help job seekers learn more about services available to them and helping them connect with appropriate departments.
Daily Job Lead Packets were also handed out to the job seekers helping them realize how many jobs are really available in Nevada County. Employers were able to connect with a diverse group of job seekers with varying skill sets and many interviews were scheduled that day.

Prior to the fair, Nevada Business and Career Network (BCN) conducted “How to Prepare for a Job Fair” Workshops to help the job seekers prepare for the fair.

Wendy Sweeney and Esteban Tadeo, Business Services Representatives, made many positive connections with local employers during the fair. One of the positive results was an On the Job Training (OJT) that Brisa Jankovich started with Sierra Family Medical Clinic as a Sterilization Technician and another great outcome was a series of hiring events with several different employers at the BCN office.

Our first Job Fair in Nevada County was a great success!

**Nevada County Convening Sessions**

NoRTEC partnered with Thomas P. Miller & Associates to bring together members of the communities of Nevada County to participate in “State of the Workforce discussions.” Sessions were held in Truckee, Nevada City and Grass Valley with over 50 stakeholders in attendance.

The goal of the sessions were to bring together business and job seeker customers, along with representatives of education, government, private sector and non-profit organizations to discuss the current trends and challenges in the workforce, and to strengthen our efforts as partners to enhance the economic value of our communities.
All three of the sessions were well attended with enthusiastic input and insights shared with our expert consultants to assist in pulling together valuable information in order to address current trends and struggles with today’s workforce and its future needs.

Some of the topics discussed were, the current housing shortage with its potential to inhibit people from moving to the area to accept employment opportunities, the minimum wage increase and how it is affecting business owners, the lack of a labor force especially in the trades and the tourism industries, and the importance of communication with employers who share seasonal employees.

The consultants Kristen Barry and Jessica Borza have a plan to gather again this fall and hold follow up sessions, this will allow the consultants to share findings and discuss their suggestions for resolutions and paths to implementation. There was a general “Buzz” of enthusiasm at all three sessions about the shared ideas and concerns, and to know that there are some qualified experts on the task and up for the challenge.
What makes a community great: The T.O.T.A.L. Package!

Talent  Outdoors  Technology  Art  Lifestyle

Grass Valley Resource and Referral Coordinator, Malwina Grant and Business Service Representative, Wendy Sweeney attended the Economic Summit April 7th at the Grass Valley Veteran’s Hall with over 300 of the regions business, industry, technology, civic, government and education leaders.

Speakers were: Jim Hemig Publisher of The Union Newspaper; Jon Gregory Executive Director of the ERC & Managing Partner of Green Screen Institute; Mary Owens of Owens Wealth Strategies Group & Co-Chair of Digital Media Campus initiative; Scott Lenet Founder/President of Touchdown Ventures, Inc.; there was a panel discussion on the topic “What Makes a Community Great” with Matt Carmichael of Livability.com and his panel of experts Mayors Rosalynn Bliss of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Georgia Tuttle of Lebanon, New Hampshire and Paul Soglin of Madison, Wisconsin.

The Summit addressed the economy and future trends to bring businesses, technology and the ERC’s efforts to make Nevada County communities a more desirable home for the millennial generation. The Economic Resource Council is striving to make Nevada County a Global Center of Excellence and recently opened the Green Screen Institute (formerly Sierra Digital Media Campus).

This was a wonderful opportunity for our Nevada Business and Career Network staff to discuss local issues and efforts with our community partners and business’ s. Many new and old contacts were made at the Economic Summit.
John Shear was enrolled in the WIOA youth program in December of 2015 and at that time, he faced multiple barriers including being a teen parent and lacking formal work experience. He was referred to BCN from Child Support and was on the verge of losing his driver’s license because he was in arrears on child support payments, which would make his job search even more difficult. Without work experience and about to face legal repercussions, John was under a lot of pressure to find a way to support himself and his child. The AFWD Youth Program assisted John in obtaining Cal Fresh and medical benefits to meet basic needs. John completed career assessments and workshops which provided him with direction in his job search. Working one on one with his career advisor, John decided that he would be interested in training to become a Certified Nursing Assistant CNA.

The next step was to find suitable training and employment. Thankfully, BCN has cultivated a unique partnership with Golden Empire Nursing and Rehabilitation Center by working together to share the cost of training. BCN pays half of the training and Golden Empire sponsors the remaining portion. In exchange the employee will pass the course to become certified and agree to a one year contract with the organization. John worked to create a resume and standard application and then applied at Golden Empire. He interviewed and was hired, pending the completion of his course.

In the following weeks, John received high marks in his course and attendance. He worked to improve his basic skills and also passed his final exam. On Saturday April 2nd, staff proudly attended John’s graduation ceremony. He began new employee training at Golden Empire on Monday April 4th. John works full time and enjoys his new career immensely. He has a natural inclination for helping others and feels a great sense of satisfaction in participating in the healing arts. As he gains valuable work experience and knowledge, he also has the benefit of knowing that he has embarked on a career which offers opportunity for growth. Since he started working, staff has assisted John in applying for the ‘C.O.A.P.’ program, which provides forgiveness for past child support amounts, pending 18 months of current payments. He states he feels proud to be able to support his son. John is an outstanding example of a youth who overcame his barriers through guidance, community support and personal resolve.
Sierra College Job Fair in Truckee

Spring has sprung up here in Truckee and with that we have been hard at work. It started with a job fair that was hosted by Sierra College in which the Business Career Network (BCN) in Truckee was invited. Mother Nature wasn’t very cooperative, she gave us a large wet snow storm that day. However, it didn’t stop some dedicated job seekers from coming out. Truckee BCN received three new clients from that job fair. Plus! HR directors and managers from our local businesses had the opportunity to receive a brief orientation of the services that Truckee BCN has to offer. After we had the opportunity to assist some of our local businesses with posting their job openings in our office and online!

Client fulfills dream of becoming a Firefighter!

It is so exciting to watch our visitor numbers grow each day. It’s even more rewarding to have assisted our visitors in finding their new jobs. One in particular is Michael Brixey who is getting ready to embark upon the next step toward his career as a Truckee Fire Fighter. Truckee’s BCN had the pleasure of assisting Michael so he could attend Butte College’s Fire Academy and attained his Fire Fighter 1. He also received his California EMT certification. He has now been hired by Cal Fire to work with them and help keep all of us safe. This fall, Michael plans on also attending Paramedic school to obtain his Paramedic license which will enable him to be employed by Truckee Fire, which is his ultimate career goal!

Michael says “I have had always had the dream of becoming a Fire Fighter Paramedic. But I knew I was going to need some help. This is when I contacted Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (BCN – Truckee) and I could not be happier. They helped make it possible for me to go to the academy. I am thankful to them for making sure I stayed on top of things while in school, because of their required monthly progress reports I was able to graduate in the Top 5 of my class! Once the academy was over I still kept in contact and they helped me with my resume and finding jobs. I was able to work as an EMT at Northstar California as a ski patrol and I now have a job lined up to work for Cal Fire as a Firefighter 1 at the Amador-El Dorado unit. I cannot thank Alliance for Workforce enough for all the help they have given me in pursuing my dream of becoming a firefighter!”
Success in our Resource Center

Irma Andrade came to the Grass Valley Business and Career Network (BCN) Office at the beginning of the year, after she had recently relocated to Nevada County and needed to find employment. She had worked for the same employer for many years and her resume needed some updating, so she worked closely with Resource and Referral Coordinator, Malwina Grant. Malwina helped her rewrite her resume and create a few tailored resumes intended for job searches in different industries.

Irma was an eager learner and very open to all services available at the Grass Valley BCN office. She attended several workshops, earned a Keyboarding Certificate, and was added to the Applicant Pool. Her resume was forwarded to several different employers looking to hire a receptionist/assistant, but regardless of her excellent credentials the process was taking some time. Job search can be a pretty exhausting and lengthy process. Her hard work and commitment to checking the current job postings paid off when she was offered a Receptionist position at Chapa-De Indian Health.

Part of her success can be linked to the ‘Meet Your Match’ Job Fair recently hosted in Grass Valley. Irma first met with Chapa-De representatives at the job fair. Irma was one of the clients who attended our “How to Prepare for the Job Fair” Workshop and took its great tips to heart. She went to the job fair with many copies of her resume, a great ‘elevator speech’ and a friendly attitude. Many employers accepted her resume and loved her personality. Irma will be a great addition to Chapa-De team as she is a lovely and hard working person with lots of compassion and patience. Congratulations Irma!

Sri Welton has been coming to the Grass Valley Business and Career Network for a while. In the beginning she mostly worked independently, checking the job wall regularly, applying for many jobs and not getting much results.

Job Search is like a full time job, it takes time and can be frustrating and discouraging at times. On one of those harder days Sri finally allowed the R&R Coordinator Malwina Grant to help her. They sat down and worked on rewriting her resume to make sure that the document highlighted her skills and experiences, as well as her potential. Sri worked hard and did a tremendous job on revamping her resume, taking all tips to heart. She started to apply for more and more jobs. Now feeling more confident of herself than before, and seeing how great her resume looked she started to look for a career and not just a job.

During one of her visits to our office she received a call and was offered the Receptionist position with Crystal Ridge Care Center in Grass Valley, just one day after her interview. Sri was so happy she cried! She said: “Thank you for all your help! You helped me with my resume and gave me tools to put me on my career path. Your services helped me get a job!” Sri is one of many clients whose hard work paid off. Well done Sri! Good luck at your new career.
Work with Meaning and Connection

The closure of a business not only results in the loss of jobs for employees and services for customers, it can also create a void where connection once existed. This was the case for Sue Hinman when she was laid off from her position of Transportation Dispatcher and Supervisor at Gold Country Telecare when the business closed after serving the community for 25 years. Sue had a strong rapport with her co-workers as well as the organization’s elderly and disabled clientele. She started at the organization as a driver and though this personal contact, she developed a close relationship with many members of the service population and was saddened by the closure of Gold Country Telecare and the loss of services suffered by her former clients.

Sue came in to the Business and Career Network seeking assistance with her job search just as her Unemployment Insurance was ending. She attended workshops conducted by her Career Center Advisor on job search and resume development. In addition, she worked one-on-one with her Advisor to improve her interview skills and revise her resume to specifically target it to each job she applied for.

She landed a few interviews, and even second interviews, but ultimately, none of her prospects were the right fit until she interviewed for a position as Assistant Manager of Receiving at Hospice of the Foothills. After two interviews and a background check clearance, she was hired. Now Sue is once again spending her days working to help people. She and her manager have a great rapport, and the company culture is a good fit for her. Sue says that she really loves her new position and feels honored to be in a position where she can assist with the provision of quality end-of-life care.
**AFWD America’s Job Center of California**

### Statistics

**Nevada County Visitors**
12,748

**AFWD Business Services**
- Business Served: 1,567
- Service Provided: 9,982
- Positions Filled: 2,394
- Training Assistance: 197

**Program Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dislocated Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unemployment Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Butte</th>
<th>5.9%</th>
<th>Nevada</th>
<th>4.3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lassen</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>Plumas</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modoc</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>Sierra</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business & Career Network – 988 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA * 530-265-7088
Business & Career Network – 10075 Levon Ave., Suite 105, Truckee, CA * 530-550-3015