LONG ROAD TO SUCCESS

In October of 2015, Lissa Kiser was underemployed, working as a CNA at an assisted living facility in Grass Valley. She came to the BCN to learn about available assistance with training and job search. Lissa enjoys working to help people and is very interested in nursing, she aspires to teach nursing one day. In order to be an instructor in this field, one must first work as a registered nurse, so becoming a registered nurse is a required step in achieving the long term goal of teaching nursing. Lissa attended Sierra College to complete her prerequisites and was accepted into the registered nurse training program at Butte College. Her financial aid award was not sufficient to cover all of her schooling costs and with two young children at home to support, every penny counted. This is where assistance from the BCN came in, to make up for the shortfall. The career advisor in Grass Valley monitored Lissa’s progress and provided support and assistance throughout all four semesters of the nursing program. Once Lissa successfully graduated from Butte College with an Associate in Science in Registered Nursing, she continued to receive financial assistance with the costs of exams and licensing as well as career guidance, help crafting her resume, and instruction on preparing for interviews. All of her hard work paid off in June of 2018 when Lissa landed a job as a registered nurse at Maxim Health Services. Good luck to Lissa in this next step in her career path!
The month of May was exciting for the residents of Nevada County. The Annual Meet your Match Job Fair in Grass Valley was once again a great success. On May 24th the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building held nearly 20 employers from the local area who decided to participate in the job fair. The annual “Meet Your Match Job Fair” was sponsored by the Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Nevada County Association of Realtors, Business and Career Network, and The Union Newspaper.

The event was a huge success with close to 125 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 industry such as Chapa-De Indian Health, tech companies like Tesuji, Inc. and several senior care services; Atria, Comfort Keepers and Home Instead, as well as many companies from other trades. Nevada County Social Services and Business and Career Network also had their own tables set up to help job seekers learn more about services available to them and helping them connect with appropriate departments. Job listings were handed out to the job seekers helping them realize how many jobs are really available in this area. 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, Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (Business and Career Network) conducted “How to Prepare for a Job Fair” Workshops to help the job seekers prepare for the fair. The topics covered during the workshop included: Before, During, and After the Job Fair. Before: what to bring, what to wear and how to prepare an elevator speech. During: how to work the room, whom to approach first and why, and how to talk to the employers. After: applying for the job on-line, sending a thank you note to the recruiters, and following up on the job application/interview.

Malwina Grant and Wendy Sweeney, Business and Career Networks’ Business Service Representatives, have made many connections with local employers during the fair. There were some employers who had never heard of B&CN and were very excited about the offered services.
Jared first entered the youth program after he was released from Juvenile hall and completed his high school diploma. It was the Juvenile hall staff that suggested he work with the Business and Career Network (BCN). With a criminal history and zero job experience Jared had some barriers facing him regarding employment. He was enrolled in the youth program and started on his goals. He was able to obtain his CDL with the help of staff, and to get his first summer job doing landscaping work. He gained valuable skills and added that experience to his resume, but came back to work with his career advisor at the end of summer as his hours decreased.

Jared was very torn about whether he wanted to go on to post-secondary education or find a career. With the support of staff he signed up for school and got financial support. He tried going for a semester and then realized that it wasn’t the best route for him. He decided that he would look for work so again with the help of his CCA he found employment. The job he found added further to his resume and work readiness but it still wasn’t providing enough hours, and he didn’t see a future in it. He retook assessments at the BCN to see if they provided additional insight into careers that he might not have considered before.

The results surprised him and suggested lots of trades that he didn’t realize were available. Together, he discovered a number of businesses in the area. Jared conducted mock interviews in preparation for his renewed and focused job search. He started applying and got an interview with DMCE concrete. He was hired shortly afterwards. Jared reports that he is really happy with this work and can see himself doing it for years to come. There is room for growth within the company and he continues to learn new skills with each job as they all require slightly different skills.

Jared continues to demonstrate his drive by continually making and striving for new goals. He plans to move out on his own soon and wants to also save up to buy a new vehicle. He hopes to continue with this company and gain more experience and skills along the way.
The Success Series: Better Business Growth

Catharine Bramkamp, who is a successful author, writing coach and Chief Storytelling Officer for technology companies was the speaker at the latest and third workshop in The Success Series: Better Business Growth organized by Business and Career Network, Sierra Business Council and Catharine Bramkamp, of NC Cultural District and NC Arts Council. Marketing Strategies: The Big Picture Workshop was held in the Business and Career Networks’ office on May 3rd and was open to local employers and entrepreneurs at no cost. Catharine has authored 15 books, holds two degrees; English and Creative Writing, and is an adjunct University Professor teaching critical thinking, social media and business. During the workshop she covered topics such as why marketing is a moving target and how small business owners can find the right targets and make the right moves. She showed them how utilizing platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, LinkedIn and newsletters help to reach customers and expand the customer base.

The two previous workshops were also held at Business and Career Network. Alternative Financing: Beyond Conventional Loans was the first workshop in the series and was held on March 22nd. Speaker Kristin York, Vice President of Business Innovation at SBDC, who has 20 years of experience in strategic planning, finance, operations, training, and business transformation presented financing options for businesses who are not able to take advantage of conventional loans due to a variety of factors. Kristin spoke about bootstrapping, crowdfunding, equity investments, and other options for businesses who may not be able to walk into a bank and access capital.

The second workshop was Startup & Expansion: Business Plan for your Goals with Leslie Williams, which took place on April 12th. Leslie has 30 years of experience in banking, most recently with US Bank in Auburn as the Vice President of the SBA Division. Leslie covered what the building blocks of a business plan are, what lenders and/or investors are expecting and how to improve upon or create a business plan for purposes of financing.

The series has proven to be a great resource to local employers who are not always aware of all the help available to them. Business and Career Network works closely with partner agencies and organizations to provide continuous support to local employers in many
Danny’s Day

Danny participates with the Workability and Transition Program through Truckee- Tahoe High School. He came into the office with the Program Coordinator, looking for help to find a better paying job. He was currently working PT for $12 an hour. He was also looking for a job that would be more profitable long term as well as give him some long-term skills.

There was a job opening with A A Keith’s Painting and Elements Painting in Truckee, and they were having hard time finding good people. They were also willing to train someone who had a good work ethic. One of the owners of A A Keith’s painting came by the BCN office to discuss services and found out about Danny. They were very interested in talking with Danny. Danny was referred to A A Keith’s and two days later Danny was hired as a painting apprentice making $15 hour!

This is a true testament of how working together and collaborating with various organizations and partners benefit our clients!

Congratulations Danny!
Lend a Helping Hand

We have all different types of people coming through our doors. Some need more help than others.

Vincent came in one day not knowing where or how to start. He had been in prison for the last 27 months and felt he had no work history to complete a resume. The Business and Career Network staff listened and helped him start and finish his resume, finding he did have plenty of work history from his last 27 months.

During one of his visits Vincent said Business and Career Network personnel and facility were a huge help to him, from his first visit. All his questions and needs concerning job preparation were answered. Within two weeks Vincent was hired with CORR. He felt he was able to keep focused on moving forward with the help of our agency.

Vincent’s success in finding work shows how our office staff works together, listening to our clients’ needs, providing them access to latest information via workshops and helping with creating new or updating existing resume.

We wish Vincent good luck at his new position!
Nevada County
Total Visitors
11,334

Nevada County
Business Services
Business Served 188
Service Provided 963

AFWD
Total Clients Enrolled: 941

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2018)
Butte 4.3%  Nevada 3.2%
Lassen 4.1%  Plumas 6.7%
Modoc 6.1%  Sierra 4.8%