THANK YOU!

Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our businesses, organizations, and community partners for the support this past year. Our programs and partnerships provide employment opportunities for residents and educational training programs towards career pathways. This supports our local economy, improves lives, and helps the business community thrive.
An Opportunity to Care with Compassion & Smiles

Zack has had a long-time passion for wanting to work in the health field. This comes from his kind and caring personality and his desire to assist others. He first pursued this passion when he started classes to become an EMT. Zack is always positive and upbeat with a smile on his face. Zack came to AFWD because he was searching for opportunities that would allow him to work in the health field. He was also wanting assistance to be able obtain schooling and training that would help him on his career pathway. While working with Zack an opportunity was presented for him to become a Certified Nursing Assistant through Golden Empire Nursing and Rehab Center.

Zack is excited about his opportunity to be able to work in the health field gaining experience while he is getting his training to become a CNA. He is also very happy that he will be able to work with others and give back to his community. This opportunity is going to be able to allow him to start his career working with others and helping them. Zack is very thankful to AFWD and the assistance they were able to provide him, in order to access this opportunity.
Onward & Upward

Phelan was in our internship program through the county as a Resource Assistant twice before a Full-Time opportunity as the Resource and Referral Coordinator (RRC) opened at the end of 2019. During her time interning she developed her skill in assisting our visitors in the computer lab, helping them with activities including navigating the Employment Development Department (EDD) website for Unemployment Insurance (UI), Caljobs, job search, and resume development. When she began working as the Resource & Referral Coordinator at the beginning of 2020, she continued to develop those skills and took on new responsibilities, always focused on expanding her skills to better assist our visitors. Over time she became especially skilled at assisting customers with proofreading, editing, and re-formatting resumes. These skills consistently helped her clients get interviews, which lead to employment. She also became a valuable source of information for individuals needing help with their UI claims at the beginning of and throughout the Covid-19 statewide lockdowns.

At the beginning of 2021, the Business Service Representative (BSR) position for the Grass Valley office opened. With her skills in resume writing, customer service, and referring job seekers to our Career Center Advisors (CCA), Phelan was primed for transitioning into the BSR position. She is particularly adept at identifying relevant skills and qualifications the employers are looking for in candidates. Her experience in working with job seekers to address and overcome their unique challenges trained her to stay in a problem-solving mindset, which is an essential soft skill needed to satisfy the role and responsibilities of this position.

As the RRC Phelan spent time assisting the BSR in identifying potential Class A Driver candidates for A&A Concrete. Today, she continues to fulfill this service, working with A&A Concrete and a host of small and large businesses in the community. Now, the focus of her work is supporting businesses with recruitment activities, staff development, promoting the presence and services of AFWD within the Nevada County community, and acting as a resource for getting businesses in touch with relevant agencies to assist them with their business needs. She is thrilled to still be a part of the AFWD team and settling into this new role!
WORKCON 2021: AN EQUITABLE RECOVERY

As California begins to return to business from the Covid-19 shutdown, many facets of recovery are being discussed. This year’s workforce conference addressed the state of recovery with the online WORKCON 2021: An Equitable Recovery. Several Business Services Representatives from Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) attended this year’s online conference.

The WORKCON 2021 included talks pertinent to California opening up from Covid-19 closures. There are many challenges facing businesses and job seekers. WORKCON 2021 speakers presented best practices and timely solutions to issues facing both. Topics included job creation, equity and diversity within industry sectors, various training programs, and presenting creative recruitment solutions.

Speaker Matt Sigelman, CEO of Burning Glass, spoke of initiatives that businesses are developing around equity, diversity, and income equality. Best practices for positioning workforce organization were addressed in a presentation by Patience Ofodu and Celina Shands of the Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board. The Prison to Employment program offers new avenues of recruitment, thus creating a win for businesses, a win for justice-involved job seekers, and a win for workforce programs throughout the State of California.

Author Trudy Arriaga facilitated a panel discussion about women leading workforce development. Conference attendees were able to participate, ask questions, and hear a lively discussion regarding women leaders in all aspects of the workforce.

The speakers of WORKCON 2021: An Equitable Recovery, presented innovative strategies, knowledge, and experiences for this new era in workforce development. AFWD staff gained insights which when applied to our communities, will help ensure an equitable economic recovery in 2021 and beyond.
On Friday, April 30th, the California Workforce Development Board hosted *The 2021 High Road Summit - Taking the High Road to Equity and Economic Recovery: Investing in California’s Workforce*.

This event was filled with information regarding the innovative design and strategies currently being implemented to get California back to work. There were many speakers at the conference but most notably, Mariann Johnson and Dr. Mike Chavez.

Dr. Mike Chavez is the Executive Director of the Inland Empire Labor Institute (IELI), the largest Labor Council, geographically with 27,269 square miles and 133 cities. Dr. Chavez has been pushing for the large-scale employers in his area to go green and has been politically active in protecting workers' unions and rights. The IELI has also been developing more apprenticeship programs to ensure the high school graduates are leaving with trade skills. With an apprenticeship, the paywall barrier is removed for these young candidates, making the participating labor markets more equitable.

Mariann Johnson is in charge of GenerationGo! Career Pathways. This program ensures enrollees get real-world work experience before graduating from high school. GenerationGo!’s goal is a future where students are afforded opportunities that assist them on the journey through college. Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) has a program very similar to this. AFWD’s Youth program provides services for qualifying participants between the ages of 17 and 24. Whether they need help finding a job, finishing high school, or getting more training, a Career Advisor is ready to help.

The 2021 High Road Summit was an optimistic look at effective workforce development happening around California as we emerge from a pandemic that wreaked havoc on our economy. America’s Job Centers of California are out in the community ready to help everyone back to work into gainful employment.
Unemployment Information
June 2020 - May 2021

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2021)
5.4%

AFWD Region County UI Claims

Weekly Initial Claims by Industry Sector

Top 3 Affected Industry
- Food and Accommodation
- Healthcare and social Assistance
- Retail Trade