Happy Landings at Beale Airforce Base

When military families receive orders to permanently change stations (PCS) there is a lot more to the move than any of us civilians can imagine. Nevada County’s Service Coordinator Malwina Grant and Business Service Rep Wendy Sweeney attended the welcoming event put on at Beale Airforce Base for the 24 spouses of the newly transferred military personnel. We were allowed to come on base thanks to Malwina who is a spouse of military personnel and a resident of Beale.

The quarterly event is called “Happy Landings”. The spouses were welcomed by a day filled with information about the many services and support provided through the Airforce and the surrounding communities. There were family members of personnel moving here from Japan, England, Texas, Florida and South Carolina who may have had to leave family, friends and jobs behind. AFWD staff attended this event to share our Business & Career Network services available in Nevada County. There was a great deal of interest in our On the Job Training programs (OJT’s), resume and interview assistance and the availability of jobs in Nevada County. We have already forwarded one resume to a local employer who is interested in doing a possible OJT and we are paving the path for another one to find an internship when she completes her Medical Technician courses. This is a partnership that we hope to continue for a very deserving group of individuals who make sacrifices for this country every day.
From Client to Employee

Irma Andrade is the newest addition to our Grass Valley office. Irma first came to our office as a new client, in April of 2016 due to relocating to the Grass Valley area.

Irma stated;

“I am new to Nevada County but, it took no time at all to consider this “home” after living in Contra Costa County for the last 47 years. I was very fortunate to have worked for Contra Costa County for twenty six years. I was so excited when I turned 60 years of age last June and I made sure my co-workers made a big deal of it. Shortly thereafter, we bought our home in Grass Valley and then realized I was really 60, and who was going to hire a 60 year old woman?!?

Needless to say my excitement only lasted a few months. I continued to work in Contra Costa County, coming home every other weekend until March of this year. I then retired from that position and started looking for a job. After working in the same place for 26 years, I had no resume, I did not know how to prepare for an interview, and I felt completely lost. My housekeeper told me about this place called “One Stop” by the Fairgrounds in Grass Valley. The first day I came in, I was greeted with kindness and so much information from Laura the Receptionist. I signed up for the Orientation Workshop where I met Malwina the Resource Specialist. She helped me create my resume and gave me so many more practical skills to use on my job hunt. I signed up for the Interview Workshop, where I met Kali the Career Center Advisor, and by far this was the best workshop which I have ever attended and I believe helped me get a temporary job in June.

One morning, I noticed an ad in the paper for a Receptionist at Grass Valley Business and Career Network. I was so excited and very nervous at the same time. I applied and was asked in for an interview. I was sure I just “bombed” my interview but, chalked it up to experience. I received a call from AFWD’s HR department, and they told me that if I wanted the position, it was mine. I wanted to go through my telephone and just hug her! Needless to say, I said yes! I have been very happy every day to come to work. I love the position and my new co-workers! In my experience I learned, hang in there, age doesn’t matter!”

Irma is a great example what our organization can do. Irma took an active role in her own success, she was a real go getter…Irma earned certificates, joined the Applicant Pool and attended our Job Fair. As a result, she was selected for the Receptionist position in our Grass Valley office. Clients love her warm smile and the office staff love the efficient support she provides.

Welcome Irma!!
Heartlink

The Nevada County Business and Career Network has been working hard on partnering with the Airmen and Family Resource Center (A&FRC) at Beale Air Force Base to provide services to military spouses. The A&FRC held an event on August 19th called Heartlink which is designed for spouses who are new to military, either because they married someone who is serving or because their spouse joined the service recently. The Nevada Business and Career Network was able to present at the event and explain services it has to offer to the job seekers. Business Services Representative Wendy Sweeney and Service Coordinator Malwina Grant were the two representatives sent to provide the informational presentation.

The event was attended by 12 spouses and other, mainly base, agencies. The presentation was a great success because some spouses have never heard terms such as WIOA, One Stops or America’s Job Centers of California and had no idea these free job seeker services existed. Most of the attendees were interested in the basic services Business and Career Network has to offer, such as resume writing assistance and typing/computer based testing and certificates that the job seekers are able to obtain at the center. Several of them however, also expressed interest in the On-the-Job Training program or vocational training/certificate programs that would allow them to transfer their out-of-state credentials to California and be able to find a job easier. BCN is looking forward to continuing this newly established relationship with the Airmen and Family Resource Center and its amazing staff who does so much for the military families at Beale. We are hoping to be a regular presenter at these type of events from now on so we can reach out to more job seekers in the Northern California Counties.
Youth graduates High School
Continues education at Sierra College

Sara Sandifer was first enrolled in the WIOA youth program in April of 2016 and faced multiple barriers. Sara came from a low income background and had dropped out of high school due to an unstable home environment. Ultimately she became homeless. Sara found temporary shelter and re-enrolled in high school. She graduated through John Muir charter school in June 2016. With the help of AFWD staff, she participated in several career assessments and workshops which helped her find direction for the next stage of her life. She registered at Sierra College and recently began classes to earn a certificate in Early Childhood Education. Eventually Sara would like to be a Kindergarten teacher. Her education is a great start on that career pathway.

Since starting school this fall, Sara has also found a permanent residence. With staff assistance Sara obtained appropriate interview attire, created a resume, and practiced job search mock interview skills. She contacted several local preschools and interviewed for a part time job. She was offered a position and will start working around her school schedule to gain valuable experience working with children.

Sara is a wonderful example of a determined and capable young person. Although she had some idea of what she wanted to do, her hardships and lack of resources presented substantial obstacles. Sara required extra support, available through WIOA youth program, in order to succeed in her goals. It is inspirational to see what Sara has accomplished through proper support and guidance.
The Right Fit

Being a single parent can pose special challenges, even more so if that parent happens to be unemployed. This was the case for Will Miller, who was laid off after 10 years as a street sign manufacturer with United States Legends, when the business closed its doors. In his time there, Will made himself indispensable.

Working with his Career Center Advisor, Will completed career assessments, updated his resume and was enrolled in workshops. He participated in a Job Search workshop to learn more about employment search methods and networking strategies. Will also attended an Interview Workshop where he participated in a mock interview and received coaching on different types of interviews, examples of interview questions, how to prepare for an interview, how to follow up after an interview, proper attire, creating a reference list, and general interview skills and strategies.

Will applied for a great deal of positions and had a number of interviews, however, most of the jobs for which he was qualified required that he work the night shift. As a single father and the sole provider for his small daughter, he was unable to work nights. Just as his unemployment insurance was ending, he took a temporary minimum wage job, but was not able to make ends meet.

Will continued to work with his Career Advisor, who sent his resume to a local employer, XP Camper, in response to their job posting for an Assembly & Installation Technician. The employer called Will on the very same day to schedule an interview. The interview went very well, and Will was found to have many transferrable skills, but lacked experience with the job specific skills related to the open position. Though he has a background working as a machinist, XP Camper is a company that manufactures exploration campers and uses specialized equipment and materials that he has no experience with. AFWD Business Services worked with the employer to initiate an On-the-Job training. Will is a hard worker, who is willing to learn and this training will aid him in progressing on his career path in the manufacturing sector. Will is thrilled to be employed as an Assembly & Installation Technician. Best of all the work schedule is Monday through Friday, 7 am to 3:45 pm, which works perfectly for him in terms of his family obligations. His first words when he learned that he’d been selected for the positon and approved for an on-the-Job training were, “Thank you so much, now I can do right by my little girl!”
Welcome *PROVE IT*

Employers in Nevada County have been in hiring mode! The Business & Career Network is very excited to offer businesses testing opportunities on our newly purchased software *Prove It!* The new software is a great tool for determining the best employee for an open position. Human Resource Manager at Briar Patch Co-Op emailed to say “Thank you, our pricing manager found some of your testing very useful in her recent hires.” For their Communications Specialist Position they used the Advanced Spelling and Corrective Proofreading tests available in *Prove It!* For a Data Specialist Position they made use of Data Entry Inventory Database and Microsoft Excel 2007 testing. Two of Briar Patch Co-op’s department heads have come to the center to try out the different tests available themselves!

BCN Grass Valley has had two other employers that have been using the software to screen job applicant’s skills and abilities. This process has introduced job seekers from the area to AFWD services and increased our Nevada traffic flow. We are hoping to reach more employers to utilize our testing for their job recruitments. *Prove It!* offers a variety of tests from software such as Microsoft Office Programs through typing and data entry to more advanced tests such as Marketing, Advertising and even a Customer Service Mindset Survey.

Common resume claims: Great Customer Service Skills and Experience with Word & Excel....*PROVE IT!*
STOMPING OUT FIRES

One of Truckee’s young men Mitchel Nelson reached out to the Business and Career Network (BCN) office looking for assistance to attend Butte College’s Fire Fighting Academy. This would enable him to accomplish his life long dream of becoming a firefighter. We assisted Mitchel with his application for the Board of Governors Waiver that paid his tuition and application to the program. We assessed Mitchel and helped guide him down this new career pathway in the public sector. We were also able to assist with funding for his required uniform and PT clothes. We continue to provide Mitchell with assistance to make sure he is successful in the Fire Academy. Mitch is looking forward to completing the academy and becoming a full time firefighter. Go Mitchell!

The Truckee office has been very pleased to have received seven new all in one computers. Our Receptionist / Resource Specialist, Michele, has added color to the office with her customer service skills and the ability to dig deep and find the very best job posting for our clients. We continue to serve the residents in the Truckee area and everyday we receive more and more openings from employers to post on our job board. Residents continue to hear about our services and come by to check out our office and see what kind of assistance they can receive to help them in their employment endeavors. We had over 140 visitors this last quarter, and we will continue to serve many more!
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Nevada County

Visitors

2,485

AFWD Business Services

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<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>2596</th>
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<tr>
<td>Positions Filled</td>
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Program Services

Total enrollments

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<tr>
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Unemployment Rate

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Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success

A proud partner of America’s Job Center of California

Business and career network providing pathways to success