



*Alliance For  
Workforce Development, Inc.*  
*Providing pathways to success*

NEVADA COUNTY

# Community Coordinator Report

Q1 | JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2022

## INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST CAREER CENTER ADVISOR



When Jessilyn joined the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) team as a Career Center Advisor (CCA), she originally began working out of the Oroville office located in Butte County. In April of this year, Jessilyn transferred locations to work in the Business and Career Network office located in Nevada County at the Brighton Greens Business Park.

During her time in Butte County, Jessilyn served a wide variety of individuals with diverse employment needs ranging from Supportive Services and Classroom Trainings to Resume building and Career Guidance. She has a passion to serve others and help each person feel empowered to reach their specific employment goals. Jessilyn holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Counseling and Communications. Her previous work experience includes academic advising, customer service, volleyball coaching, and advocating for at-risk youth as a guidance counselor during summer recreation programs.



In the last three months, she has helped several individuals in the Nevada County community pursue On-The-Job Trainings (OJT) where clients can learn new trade skills and earn wages at the same time. She also teaches our virtual workshop "Successful Interviewing" once a month. Her future goals are to bring awareness of AFWD services, build connections to partner agencies, connect with local colleges and training centers, and most importantly help people get back to work.

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## IN THE MIX



The Greater Grass Valley Chamber held its first mixer since COVID raised its ugly head in 2020. The jubilant Aug. 25th event was hosted by River Valley Community Bank on Brunswick Drive. Coincidentally, the last mixer was also hosted by the bank just before COVID required a major shift in how the Grass Valley Merchants conducted their businesses. The varied services the local owners offer through their trades were well represented.

The event was the first mixer attended by newer AFWD Business Service Representative, Maryanne Connelley, who found the energy of the Business Own

Owners reuniting, many for the first time in years, very joyous. The Hawaiian theme added to the celebratory atmosphere with tropical printed attire, live flower decorations, and a delectable spread of chicken, beef, and a wide array of salads. The gracious hosts, AVP Branch Operations Manager Cheri Hall, and her team sent the attendees out with a positive aura of a “can do” attitude after an electric evening of rejuvenation.

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## FULL CIRCLE SUCCESS

Full Circle Press (FCP) is owned by Judith Berliner, daughter of Harold Berliner, who co-authored the “Miranda Warning” and thus opened a printing shop to print the Miranda cards. Judith followed in her father's footsteps in 1991 when she started FCP after several years of honing her skills with other print shops. The Full Circle Press crew preserve the tactile printed work with the use of the “Original Heidelberg” machinery (circa 1950) among many other exquisite, vintage printing tools. Judith has mentored hand-picked employees to master this fine art in partnership with Alliance for Workforce Development's (AFWD) On the Job Training (OJT) program.



The first OJT employee, Ethan, joined Full Circle Press over 10 years ago. AFWD supported Ethan's training through subsidized payroll assistance to FCP during the training period. Judith and Ethan were also supported by brief, scheduled meetings to monitor his progress through AFWD Staff. The training was so successful, that Nathaniel joined them in 2016 for another OJT experience. The need for FCP's fine art and custom products continued to increase. Our current OJT participant, Joel, is a great addition to their team. It has been such a joy to assist Judith and her unique company with an incredible and devoted staff over the years.

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## EASTWARD OUTREACH

Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) is making a promotional push in the mountain town of Truckee as well as Sierra County to heighten awareness about its Youth Program. Nevada County based Career Center Advisor Walter Ford has been leading the outreach efforts, meeting with social services partners, probation departments and high school administrators as well as dropping by popular youth hangouts in hopes of spreading the word.

Met with big smiles and welcoming handshakes, Walter said all the people he spoke to at partner agencies, high schools and otherwise were all happy to further develop partnerships with the AFWD's Youth Program.

As one Sierra County local put it, “We don't have a lot of young people around these parts, but the ones we have are hard workers.” AFWD is here to help those hard workers find enjoyable and prosperous employment.



## SMALL BUSINESS, BIG PASSION



Hy-Tech Auto & Smog in Truckee, CA contacted the local Business and Career Network to see if Alliance for Workforce Development could assist in training a potential candidate they'd like to hire through an On the Job Training program. Information was provided that the candidate, David, has a passion for working on automobiles but little formal training and no paid experience doing so. David had taken a shot and applied for an open position as a Smog Technician

with Hy-Tech. He was invited to interview for the position and left quite an impression. Because Hy-Tech is a small business in a small town, they recognized the extra cost involved to hire and train David from square one even though David would be a great fit for their team. After speaking with the employer, it became clear that they had been having difficulty finding passionate and motivated employees for years and many of his older employees were beginning to retire. AFWD staff met with David and determined he would benefit greatly from On-The-Job Training (OJT) and this would allow Hy-Tech Auto & Smog to train David while engaged in productive work and provide a reimbursement of 50% of David's wage rate for extraordinary costs of providing the training and additional supervision needed for the training to be successful. David was enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program with a barrier to employment of being long-term unemployed. AFWD's Business Services Team was able to write and approve David's OJT contract and he began his training with Hy-Tech on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

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## MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

Jason had previously worked in the solar industry and started his own business as a handyman but had to close his business shortly after the Covid-19 pandemic began. He hoped to reopen but decided to go in a different direction after seeing the incredible number of truck drivers needed. Jason took the initiative and contacted a local truck driving school to enroll. Understanding the rough situation Jason was in and aware Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) had been able to assist their students before, Truck Driving Academy in Marysville, CA referred Jason to AFWD for assistance with obtaining his Class A Commercial Driver's License. AFWD was able to assist Jason with tuition for TDA. Jason has completed his training, obtained his Class A CDL, and is now working as a long-haul truck driver. It only took Jason two and a half weeks from completing his training until landing a job.

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## DRIVING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Emanuel Lee Sr. came to AFWD in search of resources that would help him find work so that he could better provide for his family of five. He had previous experience as a Supervisor in specialized construction trades; however, his long-term career goal was always to be full-time employed as a commercial truck driver and expressed interest in going back to school. Emanuel spent considerable time researching, applying, and interviewing with several companies. However, because he had less than a year of previous driving experience and did not have his CDL or endorsements, Emanuel did not meet the employment requirements for the jobs he had been applying to. It was determined that Emanuel would need additional vocational training. Commercial truck drivers have a high demand and require extensive training in order to enter the workforce.



AFWD assisted Emanuel with his tuition fees so he could enroll with the Truck Driving Academy (TDA) in Marysville, CA where he passed all of his tests with flying colors. He received his Class A license, along with all driving endorsements including HAZMAT. Just one month after graduating, Emanuel accepted an offer of employment from Michels Pacific Energy, Inc. as a full-time commercial driver working up to 60-hour weeks. Emanuel is now able to better provide for his young family and works everyday in an occupation that he truly enjoys and excels at. Emanuel stated, "Thank you [AFWD] again for all your help, it is greatly appreciated!"





# NEVADA COUNTY AFWD Q1 Statistics

## Unemployment Information

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 9/22:

**CALIFORNIA:** 4.1%

**NEVADA COUNTY:** 3%

### TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:

- 1** ACCOMODATION & FOOD SERVICES
- 2** ADMINISTRATIVE, SUPPORT, WASTE MGMT., & REMEDIATIVE SERVICES
- 3** ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION



## Nevada County Q1 Statistics

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**ONE STOP VISITORS:**  
1,027  
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**BUSINESSES SERVED:**  
70  
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**TOTAL AFWD CLIENTS ENROLLED:**  
519  
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### GRASS VALLEY

988 McCourtney Rd.  
(530) 265-7088

### TRUCKEE

10879 Donner Pass Rd., Suite A  
(530) 550-3015

A proud partner of America's Job Center of California<sup>SM</sup> network.