A League of Her Own

Nellie first came into the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Truckee office some months ago. She had been laid off from a job and was having difficulties obtaining new employment. Her previous position was as a patient advocate, but was unable to secure a similar position in other nearby hospitals. At the time of meeting a Career Center Advisor (CCA), they went through various assessments and evaluations to really nail down what Nellie was seeking and in what area her wide range of skills would be useful in. Nellie has previous extensive experience working in the film industry as well and was having a hard time getting potential employers to see the transferrable skills. Her film experience coupled with her time as an advocate, and she is very adept at doing many projects at the same time.

Needless to say, this was taking a toll on her. She is a single mom and was struggling with making ends meet. After working with AFWD, in collaboration with CalWORKs and Connecting Point, she revamped her resume, applied for, interviewed, and secured a job with Intero Real Estate. Her position as an Administrative Assistant keeps her in the customer service area where she has a strong skill set.

In her new position, she is overseeing a new office and is excited about the challenge. Nellie will work with Connecting Point via Intero Real Estate for about 6 months, at which point she may be promoted a higher supervisory level. She is currently learning many new software programs and enjoying the challenge. Situations like this lead us to be aware of how your skills, no matter how they were acquired, can transfer over into many different paths. Performing assessments, reworking resumes, and doing mock interviews better allows us to serve and prepare our clients, like Nellie. We are so excited to see Nellie’s hard work pay off, as is she!
In October of 2018, approximately 225 eleventh grade students from the Truckee Tahoe Unified School District (TTUSD) attended the Junior Career Day. Students were given the opportunity to talk with several different business representatives and learn more about the career paths that are available.

During the career fair, workshops were set up that explored such things as the value of postsecondary education for certain types of professions versus a vocational career pathway. The *Finding Your Sweet Spot* workshop lead students through identifying a few stages: that which you love to do, that which you are good at, that which you can be paid for, and that which the world needs. The *Career Intentionality* workshop was designed to help students backward map their potential paths toward their career of choice.

The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Truckee Business Career Network office (BCN) was at the Career Fair offering different tools that students could use to uncover their dream job. A workshop review in 21st Century skills included the Self-Awareness Brainstorm, the World Economic Forum’s Future of Work, and information that can be found on O*Net Online and other personality testing websites was discussed with them. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect and help these young people in finding the right career path!
YOUTH GRADUATES AND GETS ENTERTAINING JOB

Kyle first began participation in the youth program with the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) some time ago. He had been referred by resource staff at the Nevada County Business & Career Network (BCN). He was homeless, staying with friends. During his first meetings with a Career Center Advisor (CCA) it was learned that he did not have a high school diploma. Compounded on this was his lack of a driver’s license, utilizing a skateboard to get around town. Kyle got to work with his career advisor, working on career and education assessments, a resume, job search skills, and soft skills.

Kyle went through a lot of ups and downs during his time in the youth program. He found a number of jobs, but many of them were not a good fit or were part time, which did allow for a self-sustaining wage. With the help of his CCA, he was able to navigate the court system and made payment arrangements for his debts, further showing his determination to be responsible. He was able to obtain a stable housing situation. Kyle got a mountain bike, which provided a more reliable means of transportation and a bus pass for making use of the public transit system. After working hard to gain his footing, staff provided a warm handoff to adult education and paid for his equivalency test. Kyle studied diligently over the next 6 months and eventually received his GED!

During that time he decided through assessments and trial and error at other jobs that he wanted to work in the commercial restaurant industry. Staff worked with him to find an appropriate match and he began an On-the-Job Training (OJT) at a local health food store deli. He completed the OJT successfully and learned a bevy of valuable skills. He eventually moved on to work at other restaurants until he found his current job at a mini golf business which combined his love of food and working in the kitchen with his playful nature and charming customer service skills. Kyle has acquired his driver’s permit and is working towards getting his CDL and saving up for a car. He is a great example of a youth who persevered with determination and made great strides towards his goals.
**Date with a Database**

In collaboration with the Nevada County Truckee Library, The Truckee office of the Business and Career Network (BCN) under the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) is hosting monthly workshops that are presenting a free database accessible online, made available through the county library.

Included in the database is *Career Center* and the *Job & Career Accelerator*: these help prepare individuals for professional exams or improve workplace skills, resume building, cover letters and language skills for both for school and career, and tools for several types of school and professional exam preparation. Another program, called *GrantFinder*, and *Pronunciator* is also available through this database as well.

This database is accessible from any computer, all that is needed is a Nevada County Library card. Many are excited about the ease of accessibility to a large amount of information. The programs are relatively new, so both the Nevada County Library and the Truckee BCN office are busy getting this information out to the community. The Truckee BCN office has collaborated with the Truckee Library to host these free workshops in our office. Just another example of a partnership that enables us to collaborate effectively to help the individuals in the community get to work!

**What type of job are you looking for?**

The Business and Career office in Grass Valley assists many individuals in finding work, including those that are not sure what kind of work they even want to look for. Recently a new customer named Laura visited our office and had this typical response, “I’m not sure”. Front line and Resource staff ensure they are knowledgeable in the jobs we are posting and who is hiring in the community. Knowing there was a Bookkeeper position posted recently, a staff member asked Laura if she had any experience and if she could take a look at her resume. She did have some knowledge but had not used it recently. After assisting her with updating her resume, going over possible interview questions and forming a cover letter email, the BCN staff member assisted Laura with applying for the Bookkeeper position.

Laura returned a few days later very excited to let us know she was hired for the Bookkeeper position and the company was upgrading their software so everyone in the office was also learning!

Laura was very grateful for the help she received from the staff in our office, without it she never would have applied. Great job Laura! We wish you all the best!
Stopping By

Aimee Crouse stopped by the Nevada County Business and Career Network office in Grass Valley to use the Resource Center to work on her resume, as well as sign up for the Interview Workshop. After explaining some of the programs available, she was referred to one of our Career Advisors to get help with a possible training that could enable her to find more self-sufficient employment due to her lack of skills and training. We were able to assist her with attending a Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) training Program at the College of Medical Arts. Having successfully completed the program, she worked with her Career Advisor in the Grass Valley office and found Full Time employment with Sierra Nevada Hospital as a Clinical Care Partner! She is grateful to the Business Career Network for providing a variety of job search and job preparation options and the training she needed to find full time self sufficient employment.

Youth starts family and new career!

Craig was referred by county services to the Nevada County Business & Career Network’s Youth Program. He was a 24-year-old high school dropout who had never held employment. Staff worked with him to help him find stable housing, develop a resume, practice soft skills and develop job search skills. Staff also helped him to partner with the adult education program which has free, volunteer-based tutoring through the Nevada County Library system. Craig did not have his driver’s license and relied on walking, the bus and friends to get around town.

Through assessments staff recognized that Craig had a real passion for caregiving. Because he had never held formal employment, staff worked with Craig to find an employer who was open to an On-the-Job Training (OJT). An OJT was found for Craig at Cascades of Grass Valley, a local assisted living facility. He started working there as a Personal Care Aide (PCA). Craig flourished at the job and learned many new skills. He was quickly trained for the Memory Care Unit, which is notoriously difficult to work in, but during his rotations in various areas of the business, he showed a real talent for working with that specific and difficult population.

He learned after his OJT was completed that he was going to be a father and he moved with his girlfriend out of state to be closer to family. Staff assisted him with his out of area job search and he quickly found another job as a caregiver enabling him to continue to gain valuable work experience and move closer to his ultimate goal of becoming a RN. Craig was able to live with family at first but later found his own house. He was even able to get his driver’s license and eventually buy a car. He is still working on his diploma and continues to work full time. Craig is a great example of how far a youth client can go with determination and guidance.
Business and Career Network Staff Kristine Farrell and Malwina Grant participated in The Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down (NCAVSD) in Grass Valley. The event was held at the Nevada County Fairgrounds on October 19, 2018 and there were about 300 veterans who participated this year.

The Stand Down is an event where many services are provided to local veterans at no charge. The veterans were able to get a free haircut, glasses, vaccines, clothing and even services such as veterinarian care for their pets. Representatives from many state, county and non-profit agencies were also present to offer access to their services. From counseling with a chaplain, to food & clothing for veterans in need, NCAVSD is there all year to support the veteran community, but the once a year event is always a great success. NCAVSD is an all-volunteer organization and all donations go to the veteran community.

The Business and Career Network as a WIOA provider offers a priority of service to veterans and we were happy to be able to attend the event. BCN staff were able to connect with veterans on their employment needs!

More information about the NCAVSD can be found on their website at https://www.ncavsd.org/

We are looking forward to future events and to be able to serve our veterans with the respect they deserve.
## Nevada County

### Total Visitors

4,690

### Nevada County Business Services

- Businesses Served: 107
- Service Provided: 502

### AFWD

- **Total Clients Enrolled:** 988

### Unemployment Rate

(As of: November 2018)

- Butte: 4.3%
- Lassen: 4.1%
- Modoc: 6.3%
- Nevada: 3.3%
- Plumas: 6.4%
- Sierra: 4.8%