The Truckee Alliance for Workforce Development office has recently moved from the Joseph Center (Courthouse Building) into the Truckee Library’s Technology Center (attached to the Sheriff’s office). We are currently open with four socially distanced computer workstations, a job postings wall, and a conference room perfect for hosting mock interviews. Staff is available to assist with anything from resume development to filing for unemployment insurance. Our computer lab is available for job searching, building resumes, attending our virtual workshops, and other employment-related needs. Our job wall contains a diverse selection of employment opportunities within Nevada County and features color-coded fliers to easily visualize the associated occupation field. The Truckee AFWD office is open 9-4 Monday to Friday, closed 12-1 for lunch.
Family Member Opportunities

With the growing need to fill healthcare positions in the Northstate, in collaboration with SMART Workforce Center, Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) launched a new job seeker resource. Healthcare has been a priority sector in Northern California for a long time due to the challenge of recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare providers ranging from entry-level to highly skilled. This challenge is even more difficult within the rural areas of our beautiful locale. While we have had an ongoing recruitment strategy in our area, a collateral challenge has been identified.

When recruiting medical providers into the counties we serve, the family members of these relocated individuals needed streamlined job-seeking assistance. Through a partnership between AFWD and SMART, in association with Partnership Health Plan and the many healthcare providers in the counties we serve, we are proud to present the Family Member Opportunities tool found on northstatejobs.com. This tool makes it much easier for the new members of our communities to lay down roots and grow with us.

The Family Member Opportunities tool will make it easy for future residents to connect to the America’s Job Center of California (AJCC) in the county where they will be moving. From the Family Member Opportunities webpage, the user can click on the county that they intend to relocate to and will then be directed to the website of the corresponding AJCC in that area. Once on the proper AJCC website, the candidate can call or fill out a “Contact Us” form. From there, the talented staff at the AJCC will follow up and identify how best to assist the job seeker.

This new tool is a big win for Northern California and will make it easier to retain medical providers and help with the growing workforce need in our area by connecting those who need a job to the employers who are hiring. AFWD and SMART are proud to join forces to assist the healthcare sector and make a positive impact on our community as a whole.

You can check out the website here: https://northstatejobs.com/medical-provider-family-member-opportunities/
Whether one is entering the workforce for the very first time or have past job experience but are trying to get their life on a more productive and rewarding track, the process can be very intimidating.

In addition to the anxiety and uncertainty that comes with finding a lucrative and gratifying career, the clients in Alliance For Workforce Development’s Youth program also face other barriers that often put them at an early disadvantage when entering the workforce. Fortunately, there is help. In fact, there is a lot of help here in Nevada County.

As the new Youth Center Career Advisor at AFWD one of the first goals was to reach out to several social service agencies and like-minded establishments to make sure they were aware of the many great things we offer, and discover how our agencies can work together to aid those in our community who need our help overcoming barriers and finding a fulfilling career. Unsurprisingly, the response was overwhelming and quite encouraging.

Shortly after the introductory email was sent to local agencies such as Adult Education, Foster Care, Department of Rehabilitation, and the Probation Department, among others, what followed was a series of Zoom presentations, brainstorming of potential collaborative efforts, socially-distanced COVID-conscious meet-and-greets, and most importantly, an influx of referrals to the AFWD Youth Program.
Charis Youth Center—Rapid Response

Charis Youth Center is a non-public educational institution nested in the heart of Grass Valley. A nonprofit organization providing residential, educational, and mental health services to youth, Charis was founded in 1978 and opened services in Nevada County in 1998, where they have continuously served children and families ever since.

Despite their success over the years, like many other businesses and organizations impacted by Covid-19, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) became aware in early November that they would be closing their school for good. After learning of this, AFWD contacted administrators at Charis to offer our Rapid Response services to the employees facing lay-offs. In speaking with them, we discovered that forty-two individuals in total would be losing their jobs, and it would be essential to conduct our first in-person Rapid Response service since the beginning of the pandemic.

AFWD organized a Rapid Response presentation on November 10th, where we informed staff members of our presence in the community and the resources we have available, including our Resource Room, UI Application assistance, and career guidance offered through our Programs and Business Services Departments.

Altogether we were able to reach twenty-one individuals who attended.
Precision Decisions

Autometrix is a premier manufacturer of precision cutting tables, used in conjunction with their own “nesting and machine control” software which are used by manufacturers in a variety of industries to produce products such as backpacks, marine sails, and other goods that require complex planning and precision execution in an efficient manner.

In September they came to Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) with a candidate to fill their Logistics Specialist position. The Logistics Specialist is generally responsible for receiving parts, managing the location of materials in a timely fashion, and completing all related records and reports. To perform this position effectively, they would need to place someone who was organized and detail-oriented and had excellent time management abilities. Their candidate George “Will” Bamber was someone who lacked some of the key hard skills and competencies that they needed to successfully execute the Logistics Specialist role, such as an understanding of shipping and receiving procedures, however, he demonstrated motivation, interest in the company, and a willingness to learn. Most of his employment background was in hospitality and service industry-related positions, and while he’d held one position with another local manufacturer in the past, he was going to need training in aspects of the position such as conducting an inventory of materials and finished goods, tracking and resolving receiving errors, and maintaining an adequate supply of materials.

AFWD was able to enroll Will in our Adult Program for an On-the-Job Training (OJT), where we were able to reimburse Autometrix for a portion of Will’s wages, mitigating some of their risk involved to hire and train someone who lacked experience for this position. As promised, Will has proven to be a motivated employee who has quickly become an asset to the business and the Autometrix brand.
Giving to Those Who Gave

After having to take an unexpected year off, the Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down was back this year. What is normally a two-day event, was adjusted to a successful one-day drive thru event. The Grass Valley Vet’s Hall hosted this event on October 15th, 2021 where over 240 local Veterans were served. Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) was just one of the many local organizations that was present to provide information to community veterans. Stand Down is term that is taken from use during war. It is used to describe the practice of removing combat troops from the field and taking care of their basic needs in a safe area. Nevada County All Veteran Stand Down was created to do a very similar service, just in a different setting. Every year service providers from around the county come together in one easy to access location to offer services to Veterans, while making them feel welcomed and supported.

Veterans were able to stay in their cars as they drove through the parking lot of the Veteran’s Hall. Stopping to talk to different booths and the different organizations to find out what resources were and are available to them. There was even a clothing drive, free lunch and ice cream for Veteran’s.

AFWD was able to provide information to Veteran’s in regards to our local resource center, and how it could be of benefit for them. It was explained how they can access the resource center in order to get assistance with resume building, job searching, and job skill workshops. Information regarding WIOA services in regards to classroom trainings or On-the-Job training was also shared with participants. In addition to this information, AFWD was able to provide local area job lead packets to Veterans who were currently searching for employment. The event was a success, and many local providers and services in the Nevada County including AFWD were able to come together in order to give to those who gave. Thank you to our Veteran’s.
Monday, October 25th, Nevada County Economic Resource Council (ERC) hosted the 2021 Annual Economic Summit featuring keynote speaker, Christopher Thornberg, Ph.D. Other panelists included Jordan Levine, Vice President & Chief Economist for the CA Association of Realtors, and Kristin York, Vice President of the Sierra Business Council.

The annual Economic Development Summit brings together community stakeholders from both public and private business sectors, including leaders in government, healthcare, education, manufacturing, technology, agriculture, finance, and other industry throughout the region, to provide vital information regarding the health of the local economy and the future of the community.

Alliance for Workforce Development staff attending the summit found comments made during the discussion regarding the current trends and future growth of Nevada County particularly interesting. “You’re watching technology move up the I-80 to Sacramento, and Reno and Nevada County can be a part of that,” Christopher Thornberg, Director of the UC Riverside School of Business Center for Economic Forecasting and Development, said. “But people need to get used to change and they need housing. The population has barely grown in the decade, yet people want to live in this beautiful place.”

All in all, the Nevada County Annual Economic Summit was engaging and informative, providing insights into the future growth of Nevada County.
Constructing Success

Tamara came to the Alliance for Workforce Development, Business and Career Network (BCN), as she was referred to us for an On-the-Job Training (OJT) opportunity and enrolled as an Adult. Tamara has worked for many years as an Administrative Assistant and has extensive experience in bookkeeping and payroll. It had been a rocky path for Tamara, as many unexpected hurdles came her way. While her OJT did not plan out the way she intended it to, she did not give up. Working with her Career Center Advisor and becoming a Job Seeker, Tamara was determined to find work that could lead to a stable career pathway and be able to gain further skills and career advancement, while she earned a livable wage.

In the process of working with her CCA, Tamara was able to locate several positions that she applied to where she would be able to put her skills to use. In preparation for possible interviews, Tamera worked closely with her CCA to prepare and clean up her interview skills by providing mock interview assistance. Once she was offered interviews through zoom, Tamara was able to access the resource center computers, and webcam as she had no other resources to complete these zoom-based interviews. Tamara was successful in being offered a position with a local construction company in the Grass Valley area. Her position as the Office Administrator for Green Bee Construction INC. will have her busy assisting with all Admin work including; bookkeeping, payroll, marketing, and more. As she advances and masters the programs of the company, she will also be able to advance in the company and earn a higher wage. With this employment Tamara is able to make self sufficient wages while working full time and utilizing the skill set, she has mastered throughout her years. Through the hurdles that she had to face she did not give up, and she was able to construct her own pathway and success to employment.
A Passion for Our Natural Resources

Louise was referred to Alliance for Workforce Development by California State University Dominguez Hills. She had been looking to become a Technical Writer to further her career with the Department of Agriculture. During the last 15 years, Louise has spent the majority of her time with the National/State/County Parks and the Forest Service and prior to that, she worked as a firefighter. Over the last few years, she has only been able to obtain seasonal work with the Forest Service in the area with no guarantee of employment for the next season. Because of the lack of year-round work and also wanting less physically demanding employment, Louise began looking at and applying for Writer-Editor and NEPA Planner positions that would still allow her to pursue her passion of working with our natural resources for others to enjoy.

Unfortunately, Louise was not able to obtain any of the jobs she had been applying for due to being underqualified. Although she already holds a BS in Geography and Environmental Studies, Louise has no formal technical writing experience. Louise found a technical writing program through CSU Dominguez Hills and reached out to them about financial aid. Financial aid is not available for their online programs, but the program is Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) approved and the school was able to refer her to us. Fortunately, we’re able to assist Louise with the tuition of the technical writing program and we are ecstatic that we can be a part of helping someone continue their lifelong passion.
Brittany came to Alliance for Workforce Development to inquire about assistance with her ongoing classroom training to become a Radiological Technologist.

In early 2018, Brittany began working for Tahoe Forest Hospital in a Patient Registration position. She was seeking a job where she could apply her passion for helping others and saw this job as a “foot in the door” to the Healthcare Sector. Brittany was in this position until June of 2020 when, due to the pandemic, her position went from full time to per diem as Tahoe Forest Hospital was no longer performing elective surgeries, lab visits, or diagnostic testing and procedures. There was no longer enough work available to rationalize Brittany’s full-time position in patient registration. After June of 2020, Brittany was only offered work when the department was short-staffed with no guaranteed weekly hours and no stable income.

After nearly a year of unstable income and the stresses brought about by it, in addition to the limited advancement available in the patient registration department, Brittany decided to go back to school and become a Radiological Technologist. She became interested in this field while working in the hospital and knew she would be able to continue fulfilling her passion of helping others in addition to obtaining a self-sufficient and stable income. Brittany already held a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations and had all required prerequisites completed for the Yuba College Rad Tech program when she self-initiated her schooling in the fall of 2021. Unfortunately, Brittany was not eligible for any grants or other financial aid. She has been paying for her tuition, fuel to commute from Truckee to Marysville, and other living expenses with her limited per diem income and savings.

With tuition assistance from AFWD for her second semester and supportive services assistance with her fuel expenses for the nearly 200-mile round trip commute, Brittany now has the support she needs to continue on her career pathway. She is now prepared and confident in her ability to be successful in her RAD Tech training and gaining stable employment in the quickly growing Healthcare Sector.
Unemployment Information
July 2021- November 2021

Unemployment Rates
(As of: Nov. 2021)
California 5.4%
Nevada County 3.9%

Weekly Initial Claims by Industry Sector

Top 3 Affected Industry Sectors Nevada County
- Food and Accommodation service
- Healthcare and social Assistance
- Retail Trade

Nevada County - 2nd Quarter
One-Stop Visitors: 1,547
Businesses Served: 65
Business Services: 345
AFWD Clients Enrolled: 725

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