Plumas Business
and
Career Network

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The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. would like to welcome Angela Earle as a new Frontline Receptionist with our Business & Career Network team in Plumas County.

Angela and her husband, Jack, moved from San Jose, CA where they lived for forty years. They relocated to Quincy in 2006 to be close to their family. They also wanted a safe place to raise their son, Thomas, who is now nineteen years old. They have three rescue cats named Moses, Destiny, and Zena that they consider their children as well.

Angela and her husband enjoy BBQ’s, boating, camping, and hiking with their family and friends. As often as possible, they participate in local and out-of-area fundraisers. Most recently, Angela joined a group of individuals to participate in the Relay for Life to help raise money to fight cancer. They enjoy living in the beautiful countryside we know as Plumas County, far away from the hustle and bustle of the big city.

Angela has worked in the clerical field for twenty-seven years. She has worked in the insurance industry in positions such as, receptionist, customer service representative, auto and homeowner policy underwriter, provider relations representative, network contracting, and insurance billing and collections. Angela enjoys helping others in any way possible, and she feels very fortunate to have joined the Business and Career Network team. She feels assisting others with their employment endeavors will be challenging, but very rewarding.
The Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. All Staff Training was held at the beautiful Gaia Hotel in Anderson, CA on February 12th 2013. Staff members from Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, & Sierra counties came together to discuss updated companywide changes. This informational event began with a humorous icebreaker Bingo game and employee introductions; it was nice to see all of the faces behind AFWD, Inc.

Suzan Leonhardt presented changes to the updated employee handbook, company vehicle policies, and discussed in depth our companywide policies. Great information was provided and many questions answered. Next, to mix it up a bit, we took part in a quiz based on little known facts about the 5 AFWD counties. During the afternoon session of the meeting AFWD's Executive Director Traci Holt gave a presentation on pivotal company information. Traci discussed in depth the Training Directive, WIA funding and allocations, as well as the Workforce Investment Board. Following Traci’s presentation Patrick Bradley gave an informative presentation on our new SharePoint system and AFWD’s blog and demonstrated how to add events and sync SharePoint calendars into Outlook. The All Staff Meeting concluded with an Award Appreciation ceremony by Alisa Marble and Amee Albrecht who gave a big thank you to individual staff members who have made great contributions to the AFWD team.
The Butte County Staff was awarded this year’s “Super Star Award”.

Employee Awards:

- Anthony Tardiville- Over & Above Award
- Megan Weiss- Rising Star Award
- Heather Alexander- Leadership Award
- Patrick Bradley- Imagine Award
- Marta Henry- Commitment to Excellence Award
- Jen Murdock- Great Customer Service Award
- Monica Perez- Commitment to Excellence Award
- Jackie Froeming- Whatever It Takes Award
2013 Labor Law Update Workshop

The Plumas Business and Career Network held its 2013 Labor Law Update Workshop at The Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds on January 24th. Twenty-four people attended this informative workshop in The Mineral Building. Attorney, Mark Vegh, presented the workshop, sharing his employment law expertise with local businesses. AFWD holds the annual Labor Law Update Workshop to keep the local business community abreast of recent changes in California Labor Law that may affect how they conduct their business.

Topics this year included:
- Wage and hour issues
- Employment discrimination and retaliation
  - Independent contractors
  - Arbitration
  - Immigration
- Workplace harassment
- Disabilities accommodation
- Leaves of absence
- Privacy, confidentiality and non-competition
- Workplace safety

Clients Find Success at the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center

Two clients of the Plumas Business and Career Network have found careers with the Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center (PCIRC). Susie Wallace was referred over to apply for a front desk reception position. With her education and skills it was not long before she was promoted to a Family Advocate position.

Leah Irons stepped into Susie’s shoes at the front desk and with her talent of making people feel comfortable and her organizational skills she was given the title of Office Manager/Administrative Assistant. Leah now supervises seven volunteers and has the office at PCIRC running efficiently.
Not only did these two successful clients find careers with PCIRC, they found that they are now part of a team of individuals with one mission. The mission of PCIRC is to offer individuals and families the opportunity to live to their own potential. This wonderful team is fulfilling that mission.

Day Reporting Center

AFWD has entered into a new partnership with a number of community agencies in an effort to comply with Governor Brown’s Realignment Program, AB 109 & 117. The Assembly Bill was passed to address overcrowding in California’s prison system. The goal of the program is to look at all of the factors that contribute to a criminal offense and to implement a plan to resolve some of these issues, including addiction, mental health, housing and employment. Plumas County Intervention & Resource Center (PCIRC) has come forward as the central location for all of the partners to come together in working with this population. Partnering with the District Attorney’s Office and Probation, the Day Reporting Center (DRC) is a place where agencies can work together to provide services in a central venue.

The DRC opened on March 1st at PCIRC with representatives present from county & community agencies including Department of Social Services, Plumas County Mental Health, Plumas County’s newly formed Drug & Alcohol Department, Plumas County Literacy & Second Chance Program, the Crisis Center and AFWD. During the DRC hours, individuals referred to the program will work with representatives from these agencies to set up personalized plans to address their issues. Bringing the various partners together will streamline the process, reduce redundancies, hold individuals more accountable and take a more holistic approach. The long term goal is to improve individual success and strengthen community while reducing recidivism of offenders. Beginning on April 8th, AFWD staff will present 4-week workshops focusing on job readiness skills such as interviewing skills, filling out a standard application and writing a resume. As part of the program, AFWD donated a computer to the DRC for all of the agencies to utilize as they conduct program workshops. This partnership allows AFWD to address the unique needs of our community.
The Business and Career Network hosted two job fairs during the last week of March with one in Quincy and the other in Graeagle.

Each job fair ran from 2:00pm to 4:00pm with employers setting up in advance. Even before the doors opened there were job seekers, with resumes in hand, ready to meet the employers, view the Business and Career Network display of job flyers and complete standard applications on site for the employers. Several jobseekers were dressed in interview attire and participated in informal interviews during both afternoons. A number of youth also attended, giving them the opportunity to see how a job fair is conducted and allowing them the chance to view the professional world. They were also able to learn about the employment options available within their community.

Most employers were actively hiring for current positions with others collecting applications for their applicant pool. Sierra Pacific Industries met with many prospective employees and the United States Forest Service brought a team of staff members who talked with interested candidates, providing information about the
hiring process including specific requirements for various positions within the service.

In Graeagle many of the local businesses involved in the tourism industry were hiring, along with the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office and Sierra County Human Services Department. At both venues the business and entity representatives were delighted with the chance to meet with several prospective employees all under one roof and for the opportunity to participate in local, well-organized job fairs.
Upcoming Events

For a list of AFWD’s upcoming events please visit:

http://www.afwd.org