CALIFORNIA FORESTRY WORKFORCE SUMMIT

The California Forestry Workforce Summit was held at the UC Davis Campus Center for the Environment in collaboration with the Foundation for California Community Colleges’ Resilient Careers in Forestry Initiative. In addition to giving Californians a chance to be ready for and land fulfilling employment in this crucial industry, the event gave federal and state policymakers a forum to discuss obstacles to and resources for effective, equitable workforce development in forestry and wildfire control. The Executive Director of Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), Kristine ZuaZua along with a Business Service Representative from Plumas County attended, spoke with, and connected with numerous people.

Participants in this crucial event came from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including government and tribal leaders, forestry experts, researchers, college and university administrations, and anyone with an interest in forestry.
GRIZZLY BITE BREAKFAST AND PIZZA

As you skim the menu, you'll notice that all their pizzas are named after Indian Valley landmarks, which hasn't gone unnoticed by the locals. If you're unfamiliar with the area and have some time to kill, ask the table next to you for directions to one of the destinations mentioned on the menu, as Indian Valley has spectacular scenery for nature lovers.

The Chester Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) team was present to support the opening and to order a delicious breakfast. Grizzly Bites did not disappoint with a large plate of homemade biscuits and gravy. It was impressive and delicious, and the drive was well worth it. We ordered a large pizza to go on our way out the door.

RETHINK INDUSTRIES: AN OPEN DOOR AND A HELPING HAND

Since 2017, Rethink Industries has been providing Quincy along with Plumas county, exceptional service when it comes to treating and counseling those with addictions and mental health issues. Members of the community are offered a variety of services including family counseling, DUI classes, coaching and public speaking workshops, and many other justice and addiction related services. With such amazing values and necessary supportive services, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) has continued to partner with Rethink Industries in helping to not only aid in finding new employees and setting up successful job training contracts but also referring clients over to utilize different programs to get back on their feet.

Aly Kinne, Founder and Director of Rethink Industries, mission is to help her clients to see the value in themselves when they feel they have lost their way. Rethink encourages their participants to accept their past while making healthier choices to better their future. Their counseling techniques focus on identifying past trauma, grief and stress triggers so clients can pinpoint negative and undesirable behaviors to avoid future mistakes. Aly and her dedicated team are always looking for creative and innovative ways to teach and enrich the lives of those they serve within the community.

Rethink Industries gives a home to those struggling with mental health and addiction. They not only truly care for their clients and staff but also give useful mental tools to enrich their client’s lives moving forward. Their authentic approach and personable staff reduce the stigma around mental health counseling and provide a safe space for clients to face their struggles head on. It’s never too late to get help if you are struggling with an addiction or internal issue. Rethink Industries will help you to cope in a healthy manner and assist with making positive long-term goals to create a beautiful future. No matter how severe an individual’s challenges may be, Aly, along with AFWD are ready to assist you on finding the light within yourself once again.

WALKER MANSION LADIES TEA

Set on the edge of Mountain Meadows, six miles from Lake Almanor and less than a mile’s hike from Walker Lake, Walker Mansion holds a charming Bed & Breakfast, quaint dining facilities for the morning’s fresh cooked fare and for the many house events they host, along with private parties and other special events. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) was invited to a wonderful Ladies Tea at Walker Mansion with delicious sweets and unique tea blends. The event honored numerous women including Rita Bunzel, the Sierra Pacific Workforce Coordinator, and former Plumas County Supervisor Sherrie Thrall. Among the recognized women for AFWD were Melissa Smith and Val Bourque.
SUMMER WILDFIRE TJC: ALIZABETH MENDEZ

Alizbeth was referred to AFWD and the Chester Recovery office when she was having challenges obtaining employment. She and her partner lost their home and all belongings as a result of the Dixie Fire and were living in their truck. In addition, they are expecting their first child, and with all these uncertainties, they were very anxious to have some stability. Alizbeth was enrolled in the NDWG Summer Wildfire Temporary Job Creation (TJC) program to begin work immediately. She has been working with the Almanor Recreation and Park District (ARPD) to repair the damage caused by the Dixie disaster. Alizbeth has been learning new skills and earning an income while assisting her community with recovery efforts.

NEW CAREER FOR DIXIE FIRE CLIENT

In search of employment, Vanessa Torres visited the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Chester Dixie Fire Recovery office. Because of Covid and Dixie Fire, she was out of work for a considerable amount of time. Vanessa discovered she likes working with numbers and considered working in accounting. Because she lacked any prior expertise in this industry, her attempts at securing an accounting position were unsuccessful.

Vanessa visited our office and requested help in finding a local job in Chester. She had kids at home and didn’t want to travel too far.

The Business Services Representative thought Vanessa may be qualified for a recently opened position with a nearby CPA firm. Vanessa was found to be qualified for our Work Experience program, where AFWD will cover the cost of her training for a specified time. This made Vanessa’s lack of experience appealing to employers. Vanessa demonstrated interest in studying accounting and even considered attending a local college for it. Being a parent of young children, going to school was not an option. She was really eager to hone her passion for arithmetic and her aptitude for numbers. When the possibility to interview with local Chester firm, Mary Cheek CPS, Vanessa was excited.

Vanessa was chosen for the Accounting Intake role following a series of interviews with Mary Cheek, the owner. She will gain firsthand knowledge of many aspects of an accounting firm thanks to this work. She is able to work from home and make money while learning in this capacity.

After only a few weeks, Vanessa is overjoyed with this chance to advance her profession. Mary Cheek, the owner, is impressed with how rapidly Vanessa is picking up new skills. This is a win/win for the long-term unemployed client and a local business, both affected by Dixie Fire.
PLUMAS COUNTY AFWD Q3 Statistics

Unemployment Information
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AS OF 3/23:

CALIFORNIA: 4.3%
PLUMAS COUNTY: 10.8%

TOP 3 AFFECTED INDUSTRY SECTORS:
1. CONSTRUCTION
2. MANUFACTURING
3. ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES

Plumas County Q3 Statistics

ONE STOP VISITORS: 205
TOTAL AFWD BUSINESSES SERVED: 1,763
TOTAL AFWD CLIENTS ENROLLED: 684

QUINCY
7 Quincy Junction Rd.
(530) 283-1606

CHESTER
328 Main St.
(530) 258-3866

A proud partner of America’s Job Center of California™ network.