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

Gina Haserot and her husband, David moved to Keddie in Plumas County from San Luis Obispo. Gina was invited to manage the property and to work at Keddie Resort, an abandoned resort town just outside Quincy. As a couple they are gradually renovating the cabins and enjoying life in this picturesque village while learning new crafts, such as woodworking, tiling, sealing floors and roofing. They hike, fish and camp in this beautiful area with their dog Keats, a Catahoula mix, who has been roaming the woods and chasing her newly found squirrel friends. They have been scavenging the abandoned Keddie Lodge building, and have found all kinds of fun things like an old style cash register and working rotary phone. All of the renovating that has been going on in Keddie has inspired Gina to talk David into buying and fixing up an old house together.

Gina enjoys reading and drawing. She has also taken up cooking, and with the help of her Sicilian grandfather’s recipes, has to buy her husband a bigger belt. She was also given a secret rustic bread recipe that has often been used in place of currency.

Through an On the Job Training program David was placed at his dream job at Traci’s Sweet Surprises, a bakery in Quincy so when Gina was hired she had firsthand knowledge of how our work improves people’s lives. She is thoroughly enjoying being our frontline receptionist.
The month of April welcomed in spring and brought on Job Fair Fever throughout Plumas County with job fairs in Chester, Quincy and Graeagle on April 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The Graeagle job fair was a combined effort by staff from both the Plumas and Sierra offices with everyone determined to increase the number of employers and jobseekers in attendance and make each event a success.

Each job fair ran from 2:30pm to 4:40pm with employers setting up in advance. In Chester the event was held at the Memorial Hall and even before the doors opened there were job seekers, with resumes in hand, ready to meet the employers and view the Business and Career Network display of job flyers. Many of the jobseekers were highly motivated and well prepared with multiple copies of their resumes to distribute and pens ready to complete standard applications on site for the employers. Several were in interview attire and participated in informal interviews during the afternoon. 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.

A special thank you goes to Terri in our Lassen office for her invaluable help in making this a successful event.
On Wednesday April 4th employers and jobseekers converged for a busy afternoon in the Multi-Purpose Room at Feather River College. Many 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.

With over a hundred jobseekers attending the event, and the many employers and outreach specialists around the room it was a productive afternoon at Feather River College for all concerned. We would like to offer a sincere thank you to Tanya Meyer with Feather River College’s Upward Bound program and Nick Boyd from the college’s Facilities Department for all of their assistance in allowing us to make this event happen giving jobseekers the opportunity to meet with so many employers in one place at one time.
On April 5th staff from our offices in Quincy and Loyalton hosted the final job fair of the week at the Fire Hall in Graeagle. Despite heavy snowfall half way through the afternoon, this event was a great success with many employers, and over 130 jobseekers, in attendance. Many of the local businesses involved in the tourism industry were hiring, along with a local biodiesel company and hospital. The United States Forest Service, the California Highway Patrol and Sheriff’s offices from both counties were also well represented. Jobseekers met with several employers all under one roof, filling out a number of applications and handing out resumes. The business owners, and representatives from the various entities, were delighted with the choice of prospective employees and for the opportunity to participate in a well-organized job fair in close proximity to their businesses.
A local Quincy business, Traci’s Sweet Surprises, is expanding! Owner Traci Downey has taken on new staff and moved her entire business to larger premises on the opposite side of Main Street, a block closer to the financial district of town. Head baker, David Savage, a former AFWD “On the Job” training client is working on new recipes to expand the range of delicious offerings. Traci and her staff will also be busy throughout the summer with many orders for various styles of wedding cakes.

Inside, the store customers can sit and enjoy their purchases with a cup of coffee in the relaxed seating areas. We wish Traci and her staff continued success with this Main Street business.
AFWD Annual Report to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors

On April 17th 2012, Jan Prichard, AFWD Business Service Representative for Plumas County, gave the annual briefing to the Board of Supervisors on the operations of Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. throughout the county.

The briefing gave an update on the activities at Plumas Business and Career Network from July 1st 2011 to March 31st 2012.

One Stop Customers July 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012: A total of 2711 visits were made to the Business and Career Network during these months to utilize the many services available through this One-Stop. AFWD also provided 1212 services to 231 businesses.

WIA Enrollments from July 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, staff at Plumas Business and Career Network assisted 60 enrolled clients and a total of $62,437 was spent on client expenses. Of those clients that were exited between July 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012, eighty-three percent entered employment with an average wage of $12.88 at placement.

Rapid Response Activities: From July 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012, there were 15 business closures or downsizings. Seventy-three percent of these business closures or downsizings were employers with 10 or less employees.
The Business and Career Network in Susanville was the location for the annual AFWD All Staff meeting. Every year, all staff members are given the opportunity to discuss new performance measures, past successes, and upcoming projects for the new 2012-2013 program year. On June 11, 2012, employees from Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra and Butte counties attended the annual meeting.

Representatives from each of the counties were given information about policies and the implementation of new and current programs. One of the main highlights of the meeting came from Executive Director, Traci Holt. Traci gave performance goals for each county and discussed the facilitation of many upcoming local On-The-Job-Trainings (OJTs). OJTs benefit the local business communities by subsidizing the training of new employees while they are gaining the skills needed to be fully effective and efficient in their new occupation.

Many opportunities are on the horizon for members of the Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. team. Come and set your sights high with us by coming to the Business and Career Network located at the Courthouse Annex in Quincy, CA. For more information regarding our programs and services, please call us at (530) 283-1606 or visit www.aworkforce.org.
Pearl Burfeind came into the Plumas Business and Career Network seeking help with planning her future. Referred to AFWD's Youth Program, she met the eligibility and was enrolled in the program. Pearl's goals included not only working, but earning enough to live independently. She also wanted to gain a better understanding of work/careers that would be a good fit for her. She participated in Youth Workshops that helped her improve job search, interviewing, and customer service skills. She completed activities to help her to understand a paycheck, employee benefits, maintain a personal budget and positive credit, banking, find housing, and find/own transportation. Pearl completed her high school education and enrolled in classes at Feather River College. Completing a work experience job was one of the program activities suggested for Pearl to meet her goals. Pearl is currently in a work experience with the Gold Pan Motel as housekeeping assistant and is proving to be an asset to that business.