21st ANNUAL JOB FAIRS

The Business and Career Network (BCN) hosted the 21st Annual Job Fair in both Quincy and Graeagle this spring, 2017. For several younger job seekers, this was the first Job Fair they attended and were somewhat awed with the number of job openings. One youth was looking for summer employment as a busser or dishwasher. He was overwhelmed to find many restaurants had busser openings. Several people new to the area were delighted at the number of openings in this small community. Both Feather River College (FRC) and Graeagle Fire Hall were very accommodating as tables were set up and ready to arrange. FRC also took part in meeting potential candidates.

The Quincy Job Fair was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at the FRC gymnasium from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There were twenty-nine local businesses set up early in anticipation of finding both seasonal and year-round employees. Seventy-five hopeful Job Seekers attended the Quincy Job Fair, many with resumes in hand.
JOB FAIRS Continued:

On Wednesday, April 5, 2017 the Job Fair was held at Graeagle Fire Hall, also from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Even before the doors were opened, many of the sixty-five job seekers were lining up around the building awaiting an opportunity to speak to potential employers. Many job seekers came with resumes ready and dressed for informal interviews. There were thirty-two businesses in attendance seeking both seasonal and year round employees. There are many new job openings in Plumas County as new business like Gumba’s Family Pizza are opening in the area and established businesses, like Chamber Nation, are growing.

Several business owners commented that the quality of applicants was high this Job Fair and they were very pleased with the turn out. Several restaurant owners said they were hoping to find experienced cooks and food prep staff. Seasoned kitchen staff is in short supply in Plumas County. Stephanie Tanaka, Alternate Sentencing Program Coordinator, introduced restaurant owners to the successful culinary program in the Plumas County Jail that has been implemented to help reduce recidivism. Several business owners indicated they would be open to exploring graduates from Alternate Sentencing Program to fill their kitchen staff. These kind of partnerships within our community are what allow businesses to grow and clients to succeed!
Dream Job Comes True!

Justus Lundy came into the Quincy Business and Career Network (BCN) Office after being laid off from a job as a Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer for a local engineering firm. While meeting with a Career Center Advisor (CCA) it was revealed that he had previously attended college and gained a Water/Wastewater treatment certification: which is truly what he wanted to do as a career. He had recently applied for a job at Grizzly Creek Ranch Community Services District (GCRCS) for a position as a Utilities Systems Operator. Even though he had a Water/Wastewater Treatment certification he knew he lacked relevant hands-on experience in this field.

The Plumas Business Service Representative (BSR) contacted the manager at GCRCS and discussed a possible On-the-Job Training (OJT) with Justus. The manager confirmed that they were interested in hiring Justus. And while Justus’ past work had provided him some transferable skills, giving him a good foundation for a career in this industry, the manager was concerned with the fact that Justus lacked the necessary experience for the position of Utilities Systems Operator. The staff at the BCN worked with GCRCS and put together an employment plan for Justus that would provide him with the abilities and knowledge required to become a Utilities Systems Operator.

Justus began his OJT on January 23, 2017. His supervisor was impressed with how well Justus progressed in operations and learning new skills. Throughout the OJT he was exposed to many different tasks, and he picked up on all of it in a quick and prompt manner. Showing his drive, he was also involved in continued formal on-line training, at which he excelled. Justus has been very happy with his job at GCRCS. It has allowed him to stay gainfully employed and he has received a raise since finishing his OJT! The employer and employee were both grateful for the opportunity that had been provided to them through the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. Justus received a start in the career he had always wanted to pursue, and Grizzly Creek RCSD has a new employee trained specifically on their processes and procedures. It is a win-win for everyone!
Playing our Part

This spring, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) teamed up with Quincy High School’s (QHS) graduating class in completion of one portion of their Senior Project’s - *Create a Professional Resume*. In total, 41 expectant graduating seniors’ resumes were received for review. Each resume was individually proofread and marked up in the areas of formatting, grammar, word tense, spelling accuracy, and overall presentation, to name a few, by three separate career network professionals.

AFWD Staff then joined each class, returning individual resumes, offering explanation of document markups and rationale for recommended revisions, presenting statistics and information on the latest trends in resume writing, and sharing details of the available resources and various programs being offered by the Business and Career Network.

Staff and students worked closely together in achieving error-free resumes, ensuring that each participant left with a finished and fine-tuned final document for project inclusion. Via modification of their own creations with direct assistance from staff, students were provided the training and tools necessary to acquire a relevant knowledge and understanding of the latest and most innovative concepts in 21st Century resume writing, granting the 2017 Senior Class of QHS a competitive edge in entering today’s workforce.
Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) attended The Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) training held in Anderson, CA. We were happy to be out of the snow, rain, and flooding for a couple of days and enjoyed the warmer temperature of Anderson. This meeting brought together representatives from all 11 counties under the NoRTEC consortium: Plumas, Lassen, Modoc, Sierra, Nevada, Butte, Tehama, Shasta, Siskiyou, Del Norte, and Trinity.

NoRTEC reviewed the importance of understanding and using the Labor Market information we get from our local representative from Employment Development Department. Many participants receive monthly reports on their specific region. These reports provide us with not only the employment rates, unemployment rates per county, but also provide the number of jobs and the sectors that they are listing. Those in attendance shared valuable insights into how they used labor reporting. This led to a review of a new online tool called EconoVue. EconoVue is a powerful tool to understand the individual market region outlooks on business. This website shows everything from the health of a business to the health of employment sector by region. There is also a customer relationship management tool included in this powerful tool. NoRTEC is exploring the use at this time.
NoRTEC Training: continued

There was a review of the CalJobs tracking for business services which should be implemented in July 2017. The Business Services representatives were asked to become familiar with the marketing and business services portion of CalJobs, adding the current businesses each deals with on a regular basis. More information will be forthcoming on this new system which could replace the current use of journal entries which provides the type and number of services businesses received each month.

Additional to the regular business, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) presented a short video which gave an insight into the various types of disabilities. In order to make us more aware of various disabilities, a person from each table was asked to talk about a topic while given an example of a disability such as talk as if you have cotton in your mouth to simulate a person with a speech impairment. This exercise was warmly received while making us more aware of the daily difficulties facing those with disabilities.

A renewed emphasis on Veterans, providing priority of services to all veterans was welcomed. The short time we spent together was greatly appreciated. Many commented how nice it was to put a face with a name as we often correspond with various offices throughout the NoRTEC region. We became better prepared for our rolls within the company and better prepared to serve our communities.
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Plumas County
Total Visitors
3,641

Plumas County Business Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Positions Filled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Served</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AFWD
Total Clients
Enrolled: 955

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2017)

- Butte 5.0%
- Lassen 5.0%
- Modoc 5.8%
- Nevada 3.8%
- Plumas 7.1%
- Sierra 5.7%

Plumas Business & Career Network – 7 Quincy Junction Rd., Quincy, CA 95971 * 530-283-1606