March 2018 had Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.’s (AFWD) Plumas Business and Career Network (BCN) holding the 22nd Annual Plumas County Job Fairs. On Tuesday, March 26th, Feather River College was crowded with 34 employers seeking seasonal and year round employees. There were over 60 job seekers who came from all over the county looking for employment. Wednesday, March 27th, the job fair was held at Graeagle Fire Hall with 31 businesses having over 90 job openings. Candidates were lined up outside the fire hall, waiting for doors to open at 2:00 PM. This year employers posted almost 180 job openings throughout Plumas County many of which were newly created positions indicating healthy growth in our county.

Sharon Dryden, of Dryden Plumbing reported, “I was expecting to find maybe one applicant, but this year I have four really qualified applicants to interview next week.”

Kevin Williams, of Plumas Pines Resort, attends every year seeking seasonal employees for their popular lake resort. Kevin commented, “Without the help of this job fair, I would struggle to find the seasonal help.” He is grateful to AFWD for putting on such a successful event. Kevin said, “Some years are better than others and this year we were able to interview several candidates right on the spot and set up additional interviews for next week.”

Businesses attending were provided with an update of the many services AFWD offers, and first time business participant, Leann Olmstead, of Feather River Feather Dusters, commented, “I had no idea there was so many services offered to a business owner for no cost. As a growing business, this job fair is so helpful. I was able to find several people interested in working with our company. I set up interviews later this week.”
Job Fairs - Continued

At the fair in Graeagle, many expressed the excitement of meeting with prospects later in the week to further go over employment. One young man expressed as he was leaving the event, “I saw the sign (outside) and stopped in to see what you were about; I have been looking for summer employment. This is great! I just met with a lady over there, and I have an interview with her. I feel really positive about this. Thank you for hosting this job fair.” A gentleman exclaimed as he was walking out the door to his partner, “I feel really great about that interview. I should hear back in the next few days, is what the company said.” Observing the room while it was humming with activity, excited, animated, and serious conversations were being had all throughout the hall in Graeagle. An overheard comment while guest was leaving: “There are more employers then I expected, I am impressed.”

Sierra Pacific Industries showcased the various positions at the local Quincy mill, hoping to draw applicants to apply for the many labor positions. Angie Wilcox, Human Resource Director, attends several job fairs in the North State. Angie noted, “Many qualified candidates attended this job fair. Not everyone can handle the hard work at a mill.” Angie was happy to answer many questions asked of the attendees.

Later in April, Crystal Smith came into our office to thank the staff for putting on the job fair. She had just moved to the area and happened to see the advertisement in the local paper. She used our office to get her resume updated. Crystal told us, “Within a week of attending the Job Fair, I had 3 job offers. This would not have happened so fast if I did not attend the job fair.”

Each year brings a new mix of businesses and job seekers to the job fair. This year’s 22nd Annual Job Fair was a great success. New relationships were developed as a result and we look forward to serving the businesses and job seekers during the year. A huge “thank you” goes out to the AFWD team, local and surrounding businesses, and last, but not least by any means, our job seekers.
Charlie Brown Workforce Professional of the Year: Heather Alexander!

Charlie Brown was Executive Director of NoRTEC for almost a quarter century and was ahead of his time in developing regional strategies focused on business needs, aligning workforce with economic development, and creating opportunities for job seekers that would otherwise not exist. The Charlie Brown Workforce Professional of the Year Award was established for recognition of individuals who embody the same spirit, innovation, dedication and service in their communities just as Charlie Brown was known for.

At the California Workforce Association (CWA), WORKCON 2018 convention in May 2018, AFWD’s own Heather Alexander, Youth Program Manager, was honored with one of the four awards presented.

Heather has worked diligently to improve employment opportunities for youth facing many life barriers and also involved in the justice system. Partnerships have been established with County Probation Departments, Secondary Education, Private Sector Businesses and other community based organizations in order to maximize services to these youth. Under Heather’s leadership, youth participating in work based learning opportunities increased by 63% and the recidivism for youth age offenders dropped by over 40%.

Heather has shared the many rewards and differences that have been witnessed in the lives of these youth, employers and community members, thanks to these established partnerships.

Congratulations and more importantly, Thank You Heather for sharing your passion and visions with all of us!
Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) showcased services at the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament held at Bailey Creek Golf Course on May 19\textsuperscript{th}. This annual fundraiser for the Lake Almanor Chamber of Commerce enticed all level of golfers to play this fun and challenging course. A grilled filet mignon dinner was prepared with all the fixings to those who chose to stay after golfing. Prizes for winning foursomes were handed out after the meal service. And of course, no fundraiser would be without a raffle. Gifts of artwork, ceramics, and golfing attire were some of the items raffled.

While teams of players finished their rounds, local businesses set up tables sharing their information for those in attendance. Several non-profit organizations and first time participants informed attendees of the goals of their organization. Plumas Audubon Society, American Red Cross, Plumas National Forest, Courage Triathlon and others joined AFWD in educating attendees on their services. Teresa Arrate, Development Director, Plumas Audubon Society, showcased their upcoming August Grebe Festival. Teresa commented “The informal venue at this Chamber event allows us to get the word out to people who did not know about our growing Grebe Festival. It is well worth giving up a Saturday for such a fun event.”
During the end of the dinner served, a brief overview of each participating business was shared with the diners. Jeff Titcomb, from Indian Valley Community Services District, commented “It was nice to learn a little more about the businesses present in this informal setting. I appreciated the big map of the forest lands Plumas National Forest displayed at its table.”

There was a display from a new nonprofit event, Courage Triathlon, being held at Lake Almanor this August, 2018. Courage Triathlon is a fundraiser for the House of Courage in Sacramento, CA. For many attendees, this was the first time learning about this annual Triathlon. Susan McDonald from Plumas Audubon Society commented, “This new event at Lake Almanor will again bring tourists to our community.”

Traci Holt, Chamber Board of Director member, presented the award for 2018 Person of the Year and Parade Grand Marshall to Aaron Seandel. Mr. Seandel has been a resident of Lake Almanor with a long history of community service. This fun and informal setting allowed AFWD and fellow non-profits to showcase their services to business owners, golfers, and attendees.
Cleaning Up!

Rayce Lund had recently graduated from high school and was looking for full-time employment that would enable him to save enough money to move out on his own. Although he had worked smaller jobs in the past for cash, he had never had an official “on the payroll” job. Not knowing where to start, he sought assistance from Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.’s (AFWD) Youth Program.

Meeting with a Youth Career Center Advisor (CCA), they completed career assessments to determine what areas would be of interest to him. Secondly, they worked together to create a professional resume, highlighting many of Rayce’s personal skills and underlining what he’d learned from his many odd jobs. Once they had a resume and a master application identifying professional references, they created a job search plan.

Armed with confidence and a refined look, Rayce combed the local area and applied at numerous employers. He was rewarded almost instantaneously with a job offer at Gold Pan Lodge as a housekeeper. Thrilled, he accepted the position! The employer states that they are happy with his hard work and dedication and Rayce is happy to have an opportunity to learn new skills and earn money. That initial goal, of a place of his own, he is one step closer to.

Way to set goals and go after them Rayce!
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics
PY 2017 - 2018

Plumas County

Total Visitors
3,532

Plumas County Business Services

Businesses Served 135
Services Provided 928

AFWD
Total Clients Enrolled
941

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2018)

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