Plumas County Career Center Advisor’s (CCA), Jennifer Stetler and Mary Lou Stokes, represented Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) at the annual Feather River College (FRC), College and Career Day. Event turnout included more than three hundred 11th and 12th grade students, representing 15 different school sites within Plumas, Sierra, and Lassen Counties; included in attendance were a surplus of 50 additional enrolled FRC students exploring transfer and career opportunities.

Seventy Representatives filled event booths during the 4 hour event, providing college how-to hints, planning and preparation tips and techniques, scholarship, loan and educational grant awareness, technical, vocational, and university campus outreach, and employer recruitment efforts amassing a diverse group of Growing industries; headlining employers included: Plumas County District Attorney and Probation offices, the Department of Social Services, engineering and green job firms, Plumas District Hospital, and the United States Forest Service.
College and Career Day, Continued:

Readying for the event included consultation and brainstorming to determine the most effective method of interactive presentation in delivering 21st Century employment and post secondary educational opportunity information while establishing a platform of communication to build interest and increase awareness of the no-cost services and resources available at One Stop Career Centers. Utilizing self-assessments, the 2016-18 FRC Catalogue of Courses, and occupational research identifying new and emerging employment opportunities expected to grow rapidly over the next several years, entitled “Bright Outlook Occupations,” yielded a result of regionally relevant career paths for which denoted educational certification and/or degree requirements could be attained or initiated for transfer via study at FRC.

At the event, AFWD staff guided participants through completion of RIASEC Interest Assessments, a popular tool used in establishing occupational periphery and identifying key aptitudes, strengths, and interests based upon personality type. Outcome established, attendees were then assisted in matching results to corresponding careers provided in the Holland Code Career Key. Participant statements were consistent in that the Holland Theory tests were fun and functional and sparked interest in exploring further self-assessment options.

Youth and Adult Program outreach materials were distributed to attendees, along with location and contact details for AFWD Business and Career Network offices. Overall, outreach and awareness was shared with more than 400 participant and representative event attendees. Paving the road on the pathway to success!
Bridges Out of Poverty Symposium

On July 12, 2016, members of the Plumas and Sierra Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) attended an enlightening seminar in Loyalton hosted by the Sierra County Health & Human Services. The title was Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities.


Attending were members of several different walks of the community. Employers, various community organizations, social services, health services, educators, and many others: all looking to learn more about helping people with various socioeconomic backgrounds. This very insightful seminar gave attendees more information for better understanding of living in poverty and constant survival mode. It was instrumental in allowing an interchange of ideas and “tools to help a community prevent, reduce, and alleviate poverty.”

Jodi “brings audiences the knowledge she has gained from years of hands-on experience within the criminal justice system, social services, religious institutions and nonprofit organizations. This vast work experience enriches her presentation with stories from the trenches that audiences often find relatable and transferable into their own lives.”

As members of a community organization, AFWD, we came away with so much helpful information and insight that will allow us to be of more use to these people we are here to help. As a person who has experience in both rural and urban settings, Jodi has an understanding of these situations as well as the dynamics within. Jodi’s presentation is invaluable!

“I’m passionate about creating sustainable communities where everyone’s voice is heard – a place where police are safe, social services are effective, schools are achieving, and businesses are thriving.”- Jodi Pfarr

Bridges out of Poverty seminars are provided through Proposition 63 Mental Health Services Act funds under Community Services and Supports Outreach and Engagement as a community academy.
Happy Employer Equals Happy Employee!!

Zackery came into the Business and Career Network (BCN) seeking full time employment as he was working 12 hours a week at a local painting center earning a little above minimum wage. He was attending Feather River College two nights a week, finishing his general education coursework. Looking for more gainful employment, Zackery submitted an application to Dickens Drilling for a position as an Assistant Driller.

After interviewing Zackery, Dickens Drilling inquired about an On-the-Job (OJT) Training opportunity for him. Although he had some transferable skills from working on a large ranch as a ranch foreman where he performed multiple jobs, he had no experience as a driller. Training was crucial for Zackery to be able to accomplish the key functions of the position successfully. Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) staff worked together with Dickens Drilling to develop an OJT plan for Zackery that would equip him with the skills and experience necessary to become an assistant driller.

Zackery started his OJT on April 11, 2016 and immediately fit in with the work crew. Zackery’s supervisor, Ben Grant, appreciated his respectfulness and willingness to do anything that was asked of him. Ben is grateful for Zackery’s eagerness to work hard and learn the drilling trade with a positive attitude and excellent work ethic. Dickens Drilling also appreciated the opportunity for help while training a new employee.

Zackery is enjoying the job and is happy to be part of the Dickens Drilling team!
Benefits of On-The-Job Training Program

Dryden Plumbing in Portola recently participated in and completed the On-the-Job Training Program (OJT) for a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Technician position they had been actively recruiting for. Sharon Dryden, owner of Dryden Plumbing, had been looking for a good fit with an opportunity to expand the HVAC side of their company.

While attending the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) Spring 2016 Job Fair in Graeagle, Sharon met a job seeker named Justin Pierson who expressed an interest in the position. Justin was given an interview and the hiring process began. Dryden Plumbing had previous experience with AFWD’s OJT program several years back and had been in communication with Plumas County’s Business Services Representative (BSR) for the possibility of participating again, should a good match for the HVAC Technician be identified.

Frank Emsoff, HVAC Supervisor, has worked diligently with Justin to provide step by step personalized training for this high demand profession. Frank has commented during site visits with the BSR that he feels this program has benefited the company in insurmountable ways. The vision is for Justin to become a Lead Technician, which will free up Frank’s time to grow the business and enable Dryden Plumbing & Heating to take on more projects in the future.

Sharon stated, “Having programs like this for us small business owners has been a pure joy. We appreciate this opportunity and the many services AFWD staff have supplied Dryden Plumbing. Not only the OJT, but good candidates for our positions, Labor Law information, and general support. As we grow, we hope to continue our partnership with AFWD and share with other business owners the services that have benefited us.”
Success found with Adult Education Block Grant

Jake Reilley attended the Quincy job fair, hosted by Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) in April 2016. He had attended the Chico Job Fair earlier and found each time he applied for an Information Technology (IT) position he was told that if he had his A+ certification he would be far more employable.

Today, getting a job in IT requires more than just a desire to work in the computer field. The CompTia A+ certification demonstrates you have a basic understanding of common computer hardware and software technologies. Although Jake has a Bachelors’ degree in Psychology, it would not aid him in obtaining an IT position. Being unemployed and wanting to change careers, Jake sought out AFWD’s Business and Career Network (BCN) in the Plumas County Quincy office. Through the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG), AFWD was able to provide Jake web based A+ certification training through ITPro.TV.

There are two parts to the A+ certification. Jake studied diligently preparing for the first portion of the A+ certification test and he passed it in June. He continued his A+ studies, taking and passing the final test in July. His hard work and industriousness paid off and he is now CompTia A+ certified! He is actively pursuing a position within Plumas County. With his proven persistence, Jake is sure to achieve his goal of being employed in Plumas County as an IT professional.

When Life Takes an Unusual Turn

Dustin Silkwood came to the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) early in the year in 2016. His path in life had taken an interesting turn and Dustin determined that he was going to find a purpose for it. It was at this time that he came to AFWD and met the coordinator of the Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) program.

Throughout discussion Dustin appeared focused; he wanted to become a drug and alcohol counselor. Dustin served as a Marine, and once a Marine, always a Marine, so he explored the idea of working with returning Veterans. Being a drug and alcohol counselor requires not only life experience but also additional schooling. We explored several online counseling programs but after speaking with local agencies, it was determined that Dustin may be better served by attending a college program, like Feather River College (FRC). In order for Dustin to volunteer at the Veterans office or the Crisis Center it was found to beneficial that he have his CPR certificate. Having a CPR certificate would make him more employable in our community, especially in his chosen field as a drug and alcohol counselor. Upon successfully completing his CPR and First Aid class, Dustin matriculated into FRC Fall program, pursuing his degree.

Again, AEBG may provide the path to certification and a pathway to careers but ultimately the work is done by the participant. Dustin successfully completed his certification and went on to enroll to FRC where he is continuing to be a successful learner. Congratulations Dustin!
New Addition in the Plumas Business & Career Network

Joining the Plumas office as an Adult Education Coordinator/Career Center Adviser is Marrisa Arcangeli. Marrisa was born and raised here in Quincy. After graduating from Feather River College, she left the small town for a short amount of time to gain experience in other communities and desired to move to a university level. Marrisa recently moved back to picturesque Quincy to start her family and career in her hometown.

Marrisa has a strong passion for helping others and is constantly seeking new and better ways to do so. In her spare time, she enjoys taking drives around her community and the outlying areas to sight see and find the peace and beauty in the amazing area we live in.

Since being back in Plumas County, Marrisa has had the pleasure of starting what she hopes to be her career with Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD). She has starting building both business and personal relationships around the community with the Adult Education Program. Seeking out new opportunities and helping others obtain certificates and credentials needed for more gainful employment has been a rewarding process in Marrisa’s new endeavor. Marrisa has spent much time exploring and understanding the many facets of the Adult Education Program and Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA). She looks forward to overcoming new challenges, gaining an abundance knowledge about the community, and most importantly, is looking forward to helping the adults in our community reach their goals and attain the satisfaction of a new career pathway leading them to success.
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Plumas County Visitors
896
AFWD Business Services
Business Served 796
Service Provided 2596
Positions Filled 415

Program Services
Total enrollments
Adult 135
Dislocated Worker 99
Youth 116
Employed 46

Unemployment Rate
Butte 6.7% Nevada 4.9%
Lassen 6.1% Plumas 7.2%
Modoc 6.6% Sierra 6.7%

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