Plumas Business & Career Network

On the Job Training Positions throughout Plumas County

This summer eleven clients of the Plumas Business & Career Network began “On the Job Training” (OJT) Programs in Portola, Quincy, Greenville and Chester. These jobseekers found work in a variety of different positions and businesses, ranging from working for a cookie stamp manufacturer to a position as a correctional officer at the county jail!

Each of these OJT employees was carefully matched with a local business and a training plan was devised with each of the employer’s and the employee’s needs as the driving force. In some cases, “On the Job Training” is provided to incumbent workers who need to upgrade their skills to the next level required by their employer, as is the case with the county jail’s OJT correctional officers.

This quarter we would like to highlight successful OJTs with Plumas County Community Development Commission (PCCDC) at their Greenville location and with the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office at the County Jail in Quincy.

On the Job Training with Plumas County CDC

Maintenance Worker and Resident Manager

Raymond Talavera is the new maintenance worker at the Green Meadows Apartments in Greenville, operated by Plumas County Community Development Commission (PCCDC). Previously Raymond was living and working in San Jose as a mechanic with American Metals. As the economic downturn spread through California, the company saw fewer projects come through and their need for staff decreased. In the fall of 2010, Raymond was laid off from the company. After unsuccessfully looking for work in the Bay Area, Raymond decided to make a big change, relocating to Greenville to be closer to his children. Unfortunately while Raymond applied for
local positions, he was unable to secure full-time employment here in Plumas County.

Ellen Cook was living in Chester but was driving into Susanville to work. She was working as an Office Assistant with a small law office. The practice maintained two offices and due to economic challenges, they decided to close down their Susanville office, laying Ellen off in the spring of 2012. She began looking for work but could not find a position in Susanville or in Chester. Ellen had a background working in a small office as well as food service experience but she really wanted a job where she felt like she was giving back and helping her community.

Tom Yagerhofer, of PCCDC, approached Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. to enquire about programs that assist with the training of new employees. He was pleased to learn that our agency does occasionally have the opportunity to partner with local businesses in an On the Job Training program. This is a supervised training program with clearly identified skills that employees must be trained on and become proficient in, enabling them to be successful in the position.

According to their website, “PCCDC assists low income residents to meet their housing needs, provides energy assistance and weatherization services” strengthening our local communities. PCCDC operates affordable based housing properties in Greenville and in Chester for qualifying residents. The Green Meadows Apartments were in need of a maintenance worker and a resident manager. Both positions require a unique skill set specific to the job, in combination with an ability to positively interact with low income and senior residents. This local non-profit needed assistance in training the right candidates to take over these positions.

Recruitment was carried out and two candidates were selected to participate in this on-the-job training opportunity. Raymond Talavera was chosen as the candidate for the maintenance worker and Ellen Cook was selected as the property’s new resident manager. Having now acquired the necessary skills for their positions, both new employees have become valuable members of the PCCDC team.

Congratulations Raymond and Ellen!
Through the Plumas Business and Career Network in Quincy, the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. assisted the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office with training for four Correctional Officer II positions. After successfully completing the On the Job Training (OJT) program all four clients, Officers Wagner, Gott, Compton and Morton, are now in career positions. During the course of the OJT’s they have learned valuable skills that only this type of training can provide. Congratulations to all four officers.

“This past year, the Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. assisted the Plumas County Sheriff’s Office with the cost in training four officers. Their liaison, Jan Prichard, did a fantastic job explaining the training process and forms the Alliance for Workforce development Inc. used to ensure our officers were progressing through their training programs properly. Both the financial and training support AFWD provided to our agency helped start four correctional officer careers at the Plumas County Correctional Facility,”

Plumas County Jail Commander, Chad Hermann.
Officer Compton receiving his badge from Plumas County Sheriff, Greg Hagwood.

Officer Wagner is congratulated on her Defense Tactics award received during her core course training.

Officer Gott receiving a Leadership Award during the graduation ceremony.

Officer Gott receiving her badge from Sheriff Hagwood.

Officer Morton is congratulated on graduating third in her class.
Marisa Busselen first used AFWD’s business services in April of 2009 when she attended a 3-day intensive “Business Boot Camp”. This event, led by SEDCorp, focused on business planning and the basics of having an Internet presence; optimized for response to search engines and the principles of Internet marketing. Marisa found this a stimulating and very educational experience that helped her in establishing her own business, originally named Lazy B.

As time passed Marisa wanted to develop a new direction for her business. Under a grant from the USDA, AFWD was able to offer Marisa some one-on-one mentoring during the summer of 2010. This assistance helped and encouraged her to pursue a new business venture that incorporated her love of animals. Thus Lazy B Pet Care Services was launched in the spring of 2011.

AFWD’s Business Service Representative assisted Marisa with her new business plan, marketing material, list of charges and a Code of Ethics. Marisa was able to take advantage of the Business Resource Center at the Business and Career Network in Quincy, becoming a welcome visitor on the occasions when she would work on her business.
flyers, business stationery, website and marketing strategy.

Marisa is now able to offer services such as in-home pet-sitting, exercise programs, hay/feed supply and delivery, pet transportation and an on-line pet products store. She is thoroughly enjoying running her own business and is happy working independently in a business environment that she finds very satisfying.

Once her business was up and running Marisa also set up a non-profit to care for homeless pit-bulls. Marisa finds her work with this 501c3, Plumas County Pits, extremely rewarding and she has already found new homes for some of the dogs she has rescued.

We wish Marisa continued success in her new ventures!

“I wouldn’t have got half as far and enjoyed half as much success in both my businesses, Lazy B Pet Care Services and Plumas County Pits, if it weren’t for Business and Career Network. The support and help their staff has shown me each and every time I step through their doors has made a world of difference to the growth of both of my businesses. Thank you!” Marisa Busselen.
Upcoming Events

For a list of AFWD’s upcoming events please visit:

http://www.afwd.org