Graeagle Job Fair

In Graeagle many of the local businesses involved in the hospitality/tourism industry were hiring. With over 15 businesses attending, the representatives were delighted with the chance to meet with several prospective employees all under one roof and for the opportunity to be in a local, well organized job fair.

The local jobseekers were dressed to impress in their interview attire and were ready to participate in informal interviews with the employers. A number of youth also attended, giving them the opportunity to learn about the employment options available within their community, and to see how a job fair could be beneficial. Also in attendance was the California Highway Patrol and the United States Forest Service, who provided interested candidates with information about their hiring process which included specific requirements for various positions within these agencies.

A majority of the participating employers were able to fill their positions. They felt that the quality of jobseekers that attended where well prepared, and many possessed the skills that they were looking for. Kate, Hiring Manager from Nakoma Golf Resort stated "This job fair is fantastic, I have been able to fill three of our position right off the bat, Thank You Alliance for Workforce Development.” Sharon Dryden, from Dryden Plumbing & Heating, who has never attended a job fair, was able to fill her position and was ecstatic that she was able to find the right individual, "I have been trying to find someone for a few months, Thank You for letting me know about this job fair, it is great.”
Sierra Convening Session

NoRTEC partnered with Thomas P. Miller & Associates to bring businesses together and conduct a convening session titled “Building Our Communities Workforce Discussion.” The main focus of this meeting was to bring businesses and members of Sierra County together to discuss the state of the workforce in Sierra County.

Some of the topics covered were:
- The most significant economic opportunities or challenges impacting business.
- How businesses are addressing workforce challenges.
- Types of employer support available.
- Education and training requirements.
- Access to general labor market data.

This discussion was helpful for creating a strategy to meet the needs of businesses in the area. A large amount of input from business leaders was obtained in regards to what is currently working for their businesses and what areas are in need of improvement.

This information will be used to create a strategy to respond to the needs of businesses by providing services, programs, and assistance. Those in attendance shared valuable insights on their hiring needs as well as other challenges they face with bringing in new employees. Some of the highlights included teaching soft skills to younger workers and providing technical skills for more specialized jobs.

The participation in the discussion identified that employers are eager to discuss how to create a better workforce for the community. Overall, it was a very helpful meeting for the consultants running the session and those in attendance. Everyone was able to share ideas and areas of concern in order to bring positive suggestions and resolutions in a follow up session coming up in the fall.
Downieville Job Fair and Outreach Event

The best word to describe the small community of Downieville, CA is beautiful. What makes this community even more great are the people who live there. The beauty of this little town draws tourists from all over the world during the summer months. Every spring, you’ll find local business owners preparing for the upcoming tourist season by sprucing up their store fronts and placing “help wanted” signs in their front windows.

In preparation for this year’s tourist season, local business owners decided to collaborate their hiring efforts and participate in a job fair/outreach event that would allow applicants to meet with local businesses and interview for positions on the spot. The job fair was scheduled for April 22, 2016 at the Downieville Community Hall. Sierra County Health and Human Services Director, Darden Bynum, extended an invitation to Business and Career Network (BCN) to assist in and attend the event. Kayte Puckett of the BCN, had the pleasure of providing assistance to the Downieville business owners by designing flyers and creating a press release for the hiring event. She also had the opportunity of setting up a booth at the event and provided applicants with information on employment services.

Thanks to the support of its community, Downieville’s first job fair was a huge success and several job seekers were offered employment.
Sierra County Veterans Services Committee

The Sierra County Veterans Service Committee met at the local Business and Career Network office in Sierraville to discuss the state of the Sierra County Veterans and what can be done to provide better provisions to those who have served.

The objective of this committee is to gather information on how to give our veterans here in Sierra County the benefits that they have earned and whether a state sanctioned Veterans Service Office should be here in the area. The number of Veterans in Sierra County is estimated to be approximately 450 individuals.

Sierra County Veterans Program will have two primary functions:

1. Out Reach, to encourage veterans to contact the Sierra County Veterans Program for assistance in finding what benefits they are entitled to.
2. Enrollment; This task is designed to offer information and, if the veteran desires, facilitate enrollment.

It was determined that a veteran’s office here in the county was not necessary, as the VA out of Reno and the Veteran’s office out of Plumas was efficient and will serve Sierra County very well.

In attendance were: Darden Bynum, Don Yegge, Danny Henson, Jim Beard, Paul Bianco, and Irv Christensen.
Field Trip to Sierraville Office

In February 2016, Kayte Puckett, the Youth Career Center Advisor, was invited to the Sierra Pass Alternative High School in Loyalton to give a presentation on the Youth Program offered through the Business Career Network (BCN) office in Sierraville. It was well received and the students were very happy to obtain the information.

To aid the students further, a more intensive Job Search/Resume workshop along with a tour of the Sierra Business and Career Network were planned. On April 22, 2016 at 9:00 am they arrived at the BCN, two wonderful young ladies, Sarah and Luna and their instructor Claire.

Through the workshop and discussion, it was revealed that Luna, after graduation, is headed to Southern California to attend a "Make-Up Artist" Academy, especially for Hollywood movies or TV shows. She has done most of the research and a bounty of information she needs to apply to the academy. With the information she received through the Workshop and starting her resume, Luna feels more confident that she will be able to obtain employment to help her through school. Her the next step Free Application for Federal Student Aid, (FAFSA) enrollment.

Sarah is still searching and both young ladies made an appointment to meet with the Youth Advisor in May as they get closer to graduation. They are on track to graduate this summer. Claire invited Kayte back to give another short Presentation for those who missed the first one. On April 25, 2016 this was accomplished.
Our Man, Jamie!

Jamie had hurdles to overcome. He is an outgoing, friendly person who is recognized throughout the county for his kindness and helpfulness. Jamie deals with a disability, which affects his ability to comprehend and attain information along with some verbal social inabilities. Where some employers may have overlooked him due to being different, he has managed not to be deterred. Jamie had been searching for employment unsuccessfully for several months. He enjoys being outside staying busy and putting in a hard day’s work. While unemployed, Jamie spent a lot of time volunteering with local fire departments in both Loyalton and Sierraville where he provided fire fighter and first responder assistance. He also volunteers his time with the Red Cross during the summer months.

Jamie had been working with his Career Center Advisor (CCA) at the Business and Career Network (BCN) for quite some time. With encouragement and coaching from his CCA, Jamie learned how to fill out applications, job search, and interview with potential employers. Jamie’s CCA referred Jamie to a temporary maintenance worker position with the City of Portola. Shortly after meeting with his career center advisor, it was determined he would be a great candidate for a temporary worksite placement through the National Emergency Grant (NEG). This program allowed Jamie to work on drought related projects. He worked one-on-one with his CCA for several days on improving his interviewing skills and improving his resume. All of his hard work paid off and Jamie was offered the job! As his job at the City of Portola was reaching its end, Jamie’s advisor told him about a position with Intermountain Disposal in Portola. He completed the online application, revised his resume and went over possible interview questions.

A week went by and Jamie was quickly becoming discouraged and losing hope of getting a job offer. Finally, he got the call he’d been waiting for. He was offered the position as a refuse collection agent and started working the following Monday. Jamie’s been working for about a month now and is happy as a lark. He worked hard to overcome being unemployed and all of it paid off. Jamie’s perseverance is something we can all learn from.
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics

Sierra County Visitors

376

AFWD Business Services

Business Served 1,567
Service Provided 9,982
Positions Filled 2,394
Training Assistance 197

Program Services

Total enrollments
Adult 168
Dislocated Worker 147
Youth 72
Employed 319

Unemployment Rate

Butte 5.9% Nevada 4.3%
Lassen 6.0% Plumas 8.1%
Modoc 6.7% Sierra 7.0%