

Community Coordinator Report

Sierra County

**APRIL-JUNE
2018**

Downieville Bound

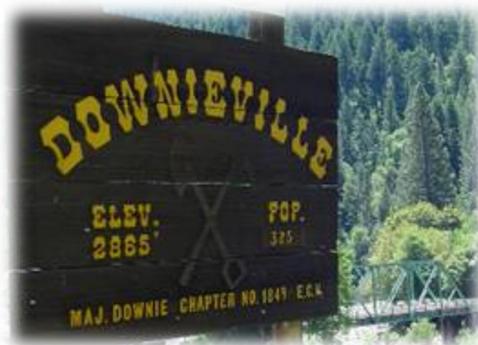
Keri Manning was referred to the Sierra Business and Career Network (BCN) office from partner agency, Sierra County Department of Social Services. After discussing her previous experience, transferable skills, and education, time was spent with her to explore positions that were available to her on the Downieville side of Plumas County.

Prior to this referral connection Keri had sent out many applications to local county and municipal agencies, but an interview offer had evaded her. Working with her Career Center Advisor (CCA) they updated her resume and did mock interviews with questions that would be relevant to the jobs she was seeking. She put together a list of questions for each possible interview having researched each agency and the position in which she applied for.

Keri was called for an interview for an Accountant I position in Downieville. She excitedly contacted her CCA the following week to share she had received a job offer for the Accountant I position.

Keri commented, "I have never felt as good as I did when I went into to that interview." Keri worked hard at being prepared, she was confident about the skills she has to offer an employer and she is willing to learn the scope of the position with dedication and a positive attitude.

Enjoy the journey Keri!



Charlie Brown Workforce Professional of the Year: Heather Alexander!

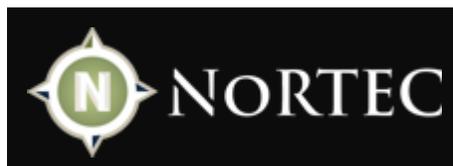
Charlie Brown was Executive Director of NoRTEC for almost a quarter century and was ahead of his time in developing regional strategies focused on business needs, aligning workforce with economic development, and creating opportunities for job seekers that would otherwise not exist. The Charlie Brown 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!



On-the-Job Training Begins

Working with Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD), Sierra Business and Career Network, Matthew Tennison's job search needed to be walking distance from his home in Loyalton since his mode of transportation was his tennis shoes. Reviewing the job posting at the Sierra office, Matthew learned that American Renewable Power (ARP) biomass plant was recruiting for Operator #4 workers and its close proximity to where he lived made this a desirable choice.

Help was provided to update his resume and Matthew did research on American Renewable Power and what their mission and goals were. Upon doing some study in the local labor market and discovering that he could have a self-sustaining career path with ARP, he decided to pursue this course. A company application was completed and sent to ARP management along with his updated resume. Matthew also he visited the ARP office to express his interest in working there.

Matthew's persistence paid off. The squeaky wheel most definitely got the grease. After being tenacious about checking on his application status on a regular basis, Mr. Turner, the Manager of ARP, provided him with contact information for a supervisor that could speak with Matthew in more detail about what the job duties for an Operator 4 entailed. After meeting with the Supervisor, Matthew was then referred back to Mr. Turner to further discuss the positions skills and responsibilities.

A collaboration with Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. and American Renewable Power enabled Matthew to participate in an On-the-Job Training. Matthew is enjoying his new position as an Operator #4 and the opportunity of advancement that it provides.

Congratulations Matthew, there will be more to come as he peruses this evolving career path.



WORKCON 2018



Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) business service team members were in attendance for the California Workforce Association, (CWA) WORKCON 2018 held in San Diego from May 2-4, 2018. The focus theme, “Unlocking the Power of Partnership” served as a powerful foundation for the attendees.

This educational conference was formatted with morning and afternoon plenary presentations and completely filled with breakout sessions that had informative material for all. Sessions such as, “Do You Have the Skill Set to Be a Great Partner?”, “Career Vision”, “Strengthening Working Families” offered innovative and practical supportive tools and models that can be applied in everyday situations.

Representation from Adult Schools, community colleges, charter schools, County Offices of Education, and K-12 system; Department of Rehabilitation and other rehabilitation programs; apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs; economic development professionals, Workforce Development Board, (WDB) members and workforce professional among other key partners participated in this 3 day event.

“I love attending conferences where so much knowledge and creativity is accessible, the networking and relationship building with professionals that have some of the same common goals and more importantly really like working with people just renews my whole outlook. I leave these session with my mind going a thousand miles an hour as to how to share with my co-workers and how to implement even a small part of the information and practices in our offices”, stated Terri Hiser-Haynes, Business Services Supervisor.

Gary Busser, Business Services Representative commented, “CWA was a fantastic opportunity to get insights on workforce development trends and tactics. I appreciated the quality of the presentations and the applicable nature of the information in the workshops I attended on apprenticeship development, caseload management, and relationship building with partner agencies. I also thoroughly enjoyed being able to meet with other WDB staffers from both rural and urban areas. For example, I met job developers from Jewish Vocational Services in San Francisco, and Business Service Representatives from the rural central valley, and we all had similarities despite our vastly different regions.”





AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

PY 2017 -2018



Sierra County

Total Visitors

390

Sierra County
Business Services

Businesses Served 21
Services Provided 23

AFWD

Total Clients
Enrolled

941

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2018)

Butte 4.3%	Nevada 3.2%
Lassen 4.1%	Plumas 6.7%
Modoc 6.1%	Sierra 4.8%

