Finding Success at Caltrans

Since starting employment with California Department of Transportation, Ramona has done remarkably well. Her supervisors and team members found she has been a great fit to their team. This job started out as permanent intermittent position (seasonal) and as needed, but since finding out what a dedicated worker she is, she will be kept on and busy all summer. In a continuing effort to make herself more valuable to Caltrans, she is currently studying for her Class B and A driver’s license. This will allow her to move into a variety of other positions within the company.

After getting on this path to stability she has gained something she had been longing for: a home with a fenced yard for herself and two children! Finding gainful, long term employment has been a long road for Ramona, and she has come full circle. Having previously been placed in a temporary job with Caltrans, under the National Emergency Grant funding through the Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) during the drought in California, has aided Ramona in gaining permanent employment. She is doing well and feels that she has a wonderful future working for Caltrans and is very grateful to AFWD for their support since starting her journey with them during period of unemployment.

We at AFWD are so proud of Ramona as she keeps up on her goals for herself and her family!
Matthew Tennison has continued to be hard at work for American Renewable Power (ARP) in Loyalton, CA and is claiming up the ladder of success within the ARP Company.

Since starting his job there as an Operator 4, he has shown his supervisors his potential, and has advanced to being an Operator 3. Matthew has excelled in being safety conscience and learning to identify possible problems before the problem arises. Being keenly aware of what the machinery, gauges, valves, and other implements within the plant are telling the workers is the key to keeping operations running smoothly and safely. It is paramount to everyone’s livelihoods and safety. There is so much to learn about the continuing operations of the plant, and Matthew has taken to learning the inner workings of the plant like a duck takes to water.

Since acquiring employment with ARP, Matthew has been able to steady his finances and live in his own home. He appreciates the guidance given by the Career Center Advisor at Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. for helping to get on this path to gainful employment.

Great job Matthew and keep it up! We are rooting for you!
Outreach to the Graduating Class at Loyalton High

On April 25\textsuperscript{th}, 2019, Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc.’s (AFWD) Sierra County Business and Career Network (BCN) gave a presentation accompanied with a discussion on services available with the senior graduating class at Loyalton High School in Loyalton, CA.

The purpose of the presentation was to inform and educate younger ones on what AFWD offers through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for local youth. At AFWD, we want to keep them informed of the Eligible Training Providers and how WIOA might be used to assist them as they search for a career path. We also provide information on the possibility of On-the-Job Trainings (OJT) so local businesses can be assisted while they grow their own custom employees: being trained on site, while being paid.

We want them to be aware of the resources they can use locally as well: the computer lab and internet at our Sierraville office, printing and scanning capabilities. All resources that can be quite useful to those who may not have access to those items. A Career Center Advisor can be available to give them pointers on resume and cover letter writing and even help with mock interviews. We have local labor market information so they can be informed of the opportunities in their area or explore other prospects out of county or state. The computer lab offers self-teaching resources as well as the opportunity to test out the skills they already have in the form of testing that is accompanied by certificates of completion.

In the weeks to come, several of these young people arrived at the Sierraville location. They were assisted in application processes and job search. Three of them left with jobs right in Sierra County! Here’s to assisting more youth in our area as they seek out paths of independence for themselves!
Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) staff attended this year’s California Workforce Association (CWA) WORKCON 2019 held in Garden Grove, California May 15-17, 2019. This year’s theme was Fueling Curiosity with Joey Zumaya, from LinkedIn Learning, presenting the keynote address at the opening plenary. The entire three days were filled with a variety of content rich presentations for every workforce professional.

There were topics presented for every aspect of the workforce industry. Whether you operated in an urban or rural office there were insightful topics for all participants. Toni White, from Ascend Program, Inc. gave her thoughts on methods to reduce recidivism. Larry Robbin, Executive Director of Robbin & Associates, offered ways to eliminate barriers to employment. Currently, employers across the country are faced with the lowest unemployment rate since December 1969. Several talks addressed the challenges employers face finding skilled qualified staff. South Bay Workforce Investment Board presenters touched on creating pathways for the ex-offenders to help fill those skilled positions in their talk A Strategic Approach to Serving Adults on Parole.

Bob Lanter, Executive Director of CWA, presented the State of the Workforce during the Wednesday plenary session where he shared the insights from a panel discussion about the many issues facing urban and rural communities alike.
At the Thursday luncheon, The Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium (NoRTEC) and AFWD were presented with the 2019 Charlie Brown award for the significant work they have contributed for the Camp Fire survivors. The entire executive staff along with many other staff from all counties were on hand at the award luncheon. Traci Holt, Executive Director, shared phenomenal pictures and touching remarks as she gracefully accepted the award.

John Baker, retiring from CWA, gave a heartfelt talk of his time with the organization through a beautiful slide show. Later when asked about his thoughts regarding rural communities, he said “There are career paths in rural areas, but they look different than the larger communities. Understanding the needs unique to your community is important.” Several talks presented ideas for attracting skilled employees in a full economy. To attract and keep qualified employees, employers should understand what motivates each employee. Mr. Baker commented, “Find out why employees are attracted to the company and what keeps them there, it’s not always money. Understanding what motivates each employee is an important for employers to know”.

This conference gave us an opportunity to speak with industry experts and learn from other workforce professionals around the state. Winning the prestigious Charlie Brown award was humbling and made us realize our team efforts were recognized.
AFWD America’s Job Center of California

Statistics
FY 2018 -2019

Sierra County

Total Visitors
223

Sierra County
Business Services

Businesses Served 3
Services Provided 27

AFWD
Total Clients
Enrolled
1,766

Unemployment Rate
(As of: May 2019)

Butte 4.3%  Nevada 3.0%
Lassen 4.0%  Plumas 6.3%
Modoc 5.8%  Sierra 4.7%