Strengthening Partnerships and Community

The Feather River Adult Education Consortium (FRAEC) has offices in both Sierra and Plumas Counties. The Sierra County Adult Education is offering a variety of classes such as General Education Diploma (GED) preparation, English as a Second Language (ESL), Career Technical Education (CTE) credentialing and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. Offering numerous certificated classes will increase employability of many Sierra County residents. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) is working closely with FRAEC staff, partnering with referrals for the services available in the Sierra and Plumas offices.

Many people are looking to secure their high school diploma or GED in a simple and cost-effective program such as what is offered through Adult Education. Gaining a GED certification increases the opportunity to meet the minimum requirements for positions and offers potential for higher earning wages. FRAEC now has an approved Pearson VUE testing site at the Quincy office allowing GED candidates to test locally and not have to travel of the area to test for their GED. This is a great benefit to the community.

Sierra County Adult Education has many participants seeking GED, or EMT and firefighting certificates and several local adults are enrolled in the ESL classes. There will be future certificated programs offered based on the needs of the students and

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

Benjamin Franklin
AFWD All Staff Meeting 2019:
Shared Ideas, Shared Successes

On August 8, 2019 Alliance for Workforce Development Inc. (AFWD) hosted its annual All Staff meeting at the Chico Area Recreation District Community Center in Chico. AFWD Executive Director, Traci Holt addressed the staff to share updates to programs and processes for the coming fiscal year. She also shared with the nearly 90 AFWD employees present, the special honor of the CWA Charlie Brown Award that AFWD received in May at the WorkCon Conference in Anaheim CA. This award was bestowed on AFWD for its efforts in the Camp Fire recovery.

Business Service Director Amy Velazquez, and Youth Programs Director Heather Chavez presented client success stories from Youth and Adult programs. Christopher Fox is an enrollee in our Adult program, now employed with Allstate Insurance through an On the Job Training (OJT), and Desirae Fargo was an enrollee of our Youth Program who completed an Internship with AFWD as an Office Assistant in our Chico Office and was later hired as an Office Manager at All Star Towing in Chico, based on the skills she’d learned during her internship.

After the presentations, staff was treated to a fiesta—complete with a Taco Truck lunch and Treat Cart with elotes, raspados, and Mexican candy. There were games and activities for staff to enjoy, as well as the beautiful rose garden and greenway of the CARD Community Center. AFWD is grateful for all the good work our staff does for the communities we serve. Our impact on the clients and businesses we help every day, is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the employees who make it happen.
In early September, staff members from Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) attended ‘Meeting of the Minds’ a training sponsored by the California Workforce Association, in beautiful Monterey, California. This training presented topics by industry leaders, relevant to the changes facing employers and job seekers alike. Businesses are facing unprecedented issues with jobs going unfilled and businesses creating temporary positions to meet the cyclical needs of their business. During the “Unseen Problems of Underemployed and The Gig Economy,” the speaker presented strategies for business to deal with the demands of the new economy.

In the training session “Preparing the Workforce of the Future,” the speaker addressed the many issues facing businesses in this new Gig Economy. With temporary workers in greater need, it is necessary to attract workers for these part-time temporary positions. Many older workers are staying in the workforce longer and often choosing part-time positions.

The first-time job seekers are wondering whether the high price of a 4-year college degree will meet their career aspirations economically. Creating apprenticeship programs for the trades in need of workers is one way employers are meeting the challenge of a retiring workforce in the trades. The session “New Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeship Models in the Bay Area Public Utilities Industry: What’s Working and Why?” addressed the issues they are facing creating the training programs. This new model of training created in the Bay Area within the public utilities industry has been most useful.

Many businesses are deciding to grow their own employees through training. Integrity Heating, based out of Loyalton, decided to hire and train his employees in the HVAC industry. Now after a year of in-house training, the employees are able to service heaters and air conditioners by themselves. Frank Emsoff, owner, said, “It’s almost better training in-house because the employees can grow with the business. There are simply not enough HVAC experienced job seekers locally.”

With an economy of minimal unemployment, employers are challenged with finding new avenues of hiring. Workforce offices are helping businesses by identifying ways to reach both underemployed and new job seekers. The Institute for the Future indicates that 80% of the jobs in 2030 are not even invented yet. The session “Adaptability and Resilience – the new Model of Employment” addressed the changes in jobs citing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation are creating very new positions which often require On-The-Job training, in-house. We know this trend will continue in the foreseeable future.

The training sessions over the three-day Meeting of the Minds program offered attendees many new ways to assist employers facing the challenges faced in a Gig Economy, low unemployment, a diverse workforce and ever-changing job skills requirements.
Sierra County

One-Stop Visitors

23

Businesses Served:

2

Business Services:

11

AFWD

Clients Enrolled:

368

Unemployment Rate
(As of: August 2019)

4.6%