Submitted by Terri Hiser-Haynes

October 1-December 31, 2011

Alliance For
Workforce Development, Inc.
Providing pathways to success

1616 Chestnut Street, Susanville, CA. 96130
(530) 257-5057
www.aworkforce.org

Federal Technology Center Workshop

In a partnership with the Federal Technology Center (FTC), Business and Career Network was the location of a seminar entitled “Federal Registrations & Certifications” on October 19, 2011. Five people attended the seminar, which was presented by FTC's Jayne Murnane. The workshop provided information on eligibility criteria, application processes, program participation, and maintaining registration or certification for doing business with the federal government. For more information on future workshops, visit the FTC web site at www.TheFTC.org.

Smart Business

As part of Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. Challenge grant, local utility company Lassen Municipal Utility District (LMUD) teamed up to offer local contractors the opportunity of participating in the “Smart Business” program. This energy efficiency program assists local businesses in their effort to conserve energy and lower their utility bills. Contractors and their employees that participated in the one-day training program are able to work directly with LMUD to install lighting upgrades at no cost to participating businesses. Contractors are paid directly by LMUD through special funding. The

process for the program begins with a call from a local business to Lassen Municipal Utility District; LMUD then performs a free energy audit. In the event that the business has T-12 lighting, they would be identified as a “lighting savings potential” candidate. The business would be given a list of energy efficiency measures along with the list of participating, certified “Smart Business” contractors. The participating business would then choose a contractor from the list and schedule the work that needs to be done. Once the work is completed the contractor submits a certification of completion for payment. This program is designed to assist local businesses in lowering their energy consumption and local contractors in providing the energy upgrades. For more information on energy savings please contact LMUD at (530) 257-6944.

Theresa Phillips from LMUD gives an overview of the Smart Business program with local contractors

Newest Member of the Lassen Team

Melissa Willis moved back to Susanville from Nevada in March of 2010. After spending several months looking for work on her own, she joined the WEX (Work Experience) program through Lassen Works, and started working at the Business and Career Network as a WEX participant in the capacity of office assistant in August 2011. At the same time she enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program at the Business and Career Network for assistance with job seeking services. Working closely with her WEX worker and Career Center Advisor, Melissa interviewed for, and was hired as Front Line Receptionist at the Business and Career Network in November 2011.

Melissa comes to us with a strong clerical background. She says that working in an office environment is something she's always loved, and working with the public is definitely a bonus. She is excited to become a part of the the Business and Career Network team, and looks forward serving the community.

National Emergency Grant Benefits Co-Generation Plant in Chester

Since August of 2011, Collins Pine Company in Chester has been participating in the Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc. (AFWD) National Emergency Grant On-the-Job training program. Co-Gen Power Plant Assistant Operator Trainee, Nick Ceaglio has successfully completed the extensive requirements set forth by the Collins Pine Company to obtain the necessary skills needed for this position. With the lengthy job title comes many responsibilities and job duties that will always be challenging and require continued education.

The On-the-Job training began in August and completed in December, with a reimbursement of 75% of Nick's wages during his initial training period. Through this program Nick has been exposed to a totally new career path and Collins Pine Company has received a dedicated enthusiastic employee.

Walter Nystrom, Collins Pine Company Co-Gen Supervisor stated "this program has helped our company with not only the wages but allowed a man to gain a new career. The company has gained a trained employee and with the economy like it is, everything companies can do the keep the expenses down is very helpful."

The Collins Pine Company sawmill in Chester, California began in 1943. The 94,000-acre Collins Almanor Forest is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. The timberlands were acquired in 1902 and have been managed on an uneven-age, sustained yield basis from the outset.

In 1943 Truman W. Collins said, "Our mission is to manage the forests sustainably. Nurture the forest's biodiversity. Help create a stable workforce that builds healthy communities where families can work and thrive. Foster loyalty and trust simply by being loyal and trustworthy. Leave the earth better for our being here. That is our vision and that is our promise to you." For more information on the Collins Pine company visit the web site http://www.collinsco.com

Lassen Youth At Work

Several Lassen youth found employment during the last quarter of 2011. Two, in particular, utilized the services of Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc.'s (AFWD) Youth Program to meet their goals. The first, Ashley Sherwood, was asked to interview simultaneously by two local restaurant franchises: McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken. She had not yet participated in the Interviewing Skills Workshop, so she received a crash course in interviewing techniques and tips. She was offered jobs at both restaurants and chose KFC. Ashley also had a goal of passing the math portion of the California High School Exit Exam – all she needed to gain her high school diploma. She just received word at this writing that she had passed the last exam she took in October.

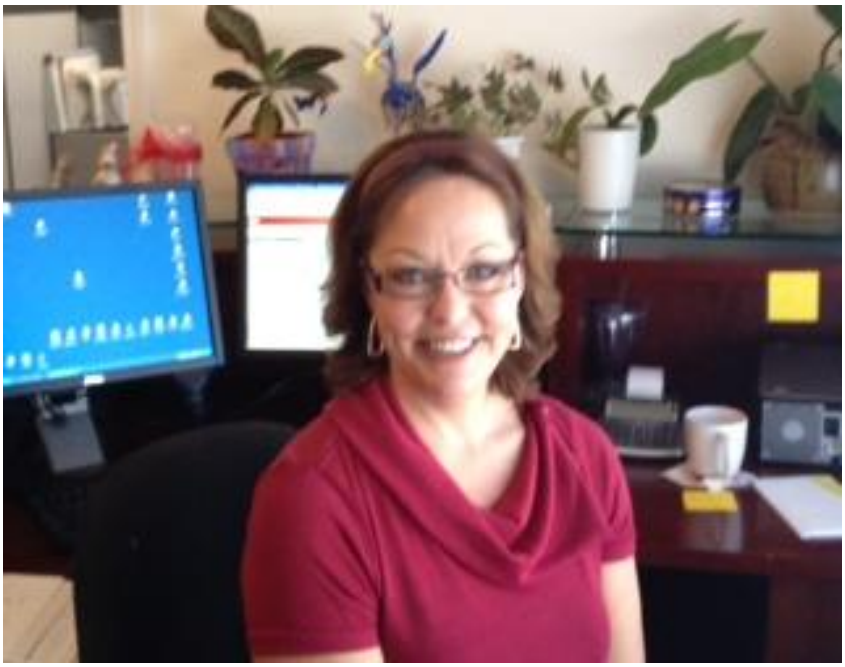
The second successfully employed Youth Program participant, Cassie Levy, came to the Business and Career Network already employed, but seeking a new, more challenging job with better pay and hours. An accomplished artist, she was looking for something where she could utilize her creative skills and support herself while attending college. Cassie received some guidance and assistance with her online application for a floral clerk at Safeway. With some briefing on interviewing techniques, Cassie landed the job, more hours per week, more opportunities for creativity, and a 13% pay raise.

Cassie Levy

Ashley Sherwood

Meet the Newest Member of the Eagle Home Mortgage Team

Stacy Bosta is the newest team member of Eagle Home Mortgage in Susanville. Stacy has been hired as their Receptionist and is very excited to begin her new career in the mortgage industry. Stacy recently relocated from Florida to Susanville to be near her family and, came into the Business and Career Network for job search services. With her strong clerical background she was quickly referred to Eagle Home Mortgage by her Career Center Advisor. According to Branch Manager, Cheryl Holmes, the quality of applicants presented by the Business and Career Network exceeded her expectations. Cheryl also says Stacy is a "perfect fit" for their office. Stacy says she "loves her job" and that "I feel like I've worked here for years."



Congratulations Stacy!
We wish you much success.

Lassen College Independent Living Program

"I was so impressed at the way you held the youth's attention," was the response from Denise Stevenson, Director of the Independent Living Program (ILP) at Lassen Community College. She was commenting on a presentation given by Alliance For Workforce Development, Inc.'s (AFWD) youth staff member Leslie Scott, to her students on November 8, 2011. ILP helps foster youth develop the knowledge, skills, and connections to transition to living independently – one of the concepts that AFWD's Youth Program focuses on through Basic Life Skills.

In past discussions, AFWD has offered information on benefits of the Youth Program and a presentation of "Go for the Goal – Techniques of Goal Setting". This time, the ILP participants had

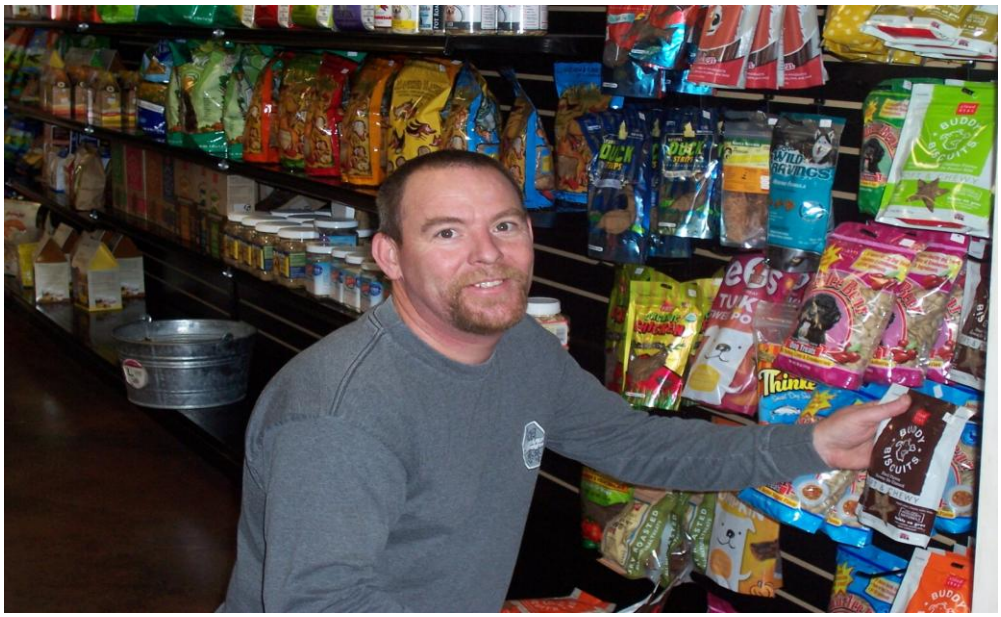
just finished working on their resumes, so the topic was job search strategies: specifically cold call job searching. Through role playing with a couple of volunteers, participants learned how to plan their job search, how to best utilize their resumes, what to wear, what to say, and most importantly, how to think on their feet to obtain the interview with a prospective employer.

A New Career Path

Loren came into the Business and Career Network in August 2011 looking for job seeker services. Loren had been in employed in construction for the past ten years and was laid off due to a significant decline in the local construction industry. He was looking for a career change that offered year round employment working with the public. His resume was updated and he took advantage of most of the workshops offered. Working closely with his Career Center Advisor he considered many employment options. Therefore when a Sales Associate position with Treat's Dog Company in Susanville opened, Loren applied and was interviewed for the job.

Loren had previous retail experience and the idea of working in the retail industry appealed to him. However, it was his passion and love for animals that made the position seem like a perfect fit. Due to the fact that Treat's Dog Company was a small business and Loren had been unemployed more than 21 weeks before his enrollment into the Workforce Investment Act program, his Career Center Advisor was able to utilize the National Emergency Grant On-the-Job Training Program to compensate his employer for partial salary payment during Loren's training period.

Loren will be monitored during his 26 weeks of training and assessed on predetermined job specific skills that are necessary for job competency. Loren loves his new position at Treat's Dog Company and his employer, Monte says that Loren is an incredible asset to their company. Both say they appreciate the assistance that the Business and Career Network offered. For more information on job seeking services visit www.aworkforce.org Treat's Dog Company can be reached at (530) 257-1614.



Service with a Smile

“Welding” A Strong Partnership

The Business and Career Network often teams up with local educational institutions to enable enrolled clients that are in training, specialized assistance on an individual need basis. In 2011, local welding participants that had no other resources for necessary welding equipment, worked with their Career Center Advisor and obtained the equipment that they needed. Kory Konkol, the Welding Instructor is excited about working closely with the Business and Career Network to ensure that participants have the resources needed to complete training. Mr. Konkol offers a class where participants get hands on experience working on special projects for local agencies.

An exchange of job openings and announcements of upcoming employment workshops between the participants, the instructor, and the Career Center Advisors have assisted participants in increasing the likelihood of become employed in the welding industry. For more information on Lassen Community College courses visit www.lassencollege.edu

Josh Scheiber is on his way to a career in welding

Rapid Response Training

NoRTEC held its first quarterly meeting for Business Service Representatives in Redding on November 10, 2011. Representatives from all eleven counties met to discuss business services throughout the consortium. The main focus of this meeting was the provision and delivery of Rapid Response Services by each of NoRTEC's service providers. NoRTEC's Executive Director, Stewart Knox, gave an overview of this business service that provides outplacement services to both employers and employees during a layoff or business closure. This was followed by representatives from each service provider explaining how Rapid Response Services are provided in their region.

An interesting and informative discussion arose around this topic, leading all to a greater awareness of the importance and need for this service and what can be done to help businesses and their employees during a lay-off or closure.

The meeting culminated with a renewed commitment by all staff to proactively work with businesses faced with a layoff or closure, to plan effectively, comply with regulations, reduce stress, and guide affected employees towards re-employment.

2012 UPCOMING EVENTS

Business and Career Network
1616 Chestnut Street
Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-5057

2012 Labor Law Update Workshop

Wednesday, January 17 - 10am-12pm

US Forest Service Job Fair

Tuesday, January 24 - 8am-4pm

Wednesday, January 25 - 8am-4pm

“Resume Writing” Workshop

Thursday, January 5 - 9am-11am

Thursday, February 9 - 9am-11am

“Ace The Interview” Workshop

Thursday, January 12 - 9am-11am

Thursday, February 16 - 9am-11am

“Networking For Your Next Job” Workshop

Thursday, January 26 - 9am-11am

Thursday, February 23 - 9am-11am

“Personal Budgeting” Workshop

Thursday, February 2 - 9am-11am

2012 Annual Job Fair

Saturday, March 31 - 9am-12pm
Lassen County Fair Grounds- Jensen Hall