

Community Coordinator Report

Nevada County
JANUARY – MARCH
2016

Nevada County Business and Career Network has moved!

In collaboration with the Department of Social Services, the Nevada County Business and Career Network has moved from their 715 Maltman Drive location to the Brighton Greens Complex located at 988 McCourtney Road, next to the Grass Valley Fair Grounds. The big move was in the works for several months and was highly anticipated by both, the staff and the clients. Program Manager Kristine Farrell and CCA Sarah McBride, who was also the Move Coordinator, attended multiple meetings with county representatives to make sure every aspect of the move was planned. It was a team effort that involved movers, partnering agencies, staff and the IT team making sure everything was arranged perfectly and on time.

The moving crew arrived on February 3rd in the morning and everyone worked diligently to take everything down and transport it to the new location. Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. was the first of eight agencies to move into the Brighton Greens Resource Center Building. AFDW staff worked alongside partnering agencies during the three day move, making sure everything was set up and ready for the center to reopen on February 8th. The facilities team was hard at work setting up the cubicles, hanging shelves, cabinets and pictures. The customer computer lab and all AFDW, Inc. office equipment was connected and configured by the IT Team, Scott Shafer and Todd O'Barr. The "Hot Jobs" wall, flyer holders with Employment Development Department materials and community resources were put together and filled with information. The entire process went very smooth and by Friday afternoon Nevada Business and Career Network was set up and ready to reopen on Monday morning. The Clients love the location and the layout of the new office!



Staff Malwina Grant, Laura Gatten, Sarah McBride and Gem Platt getting the center ready for reopening on Feb 8th



The computer lab at the Maltman location being taken down and moved to the new location by the Facilities team and movers



Brighton Greens Resource Center Ribbon Cutting

Friday March 18th, 2016 representatives from eight partnering agencies, their staff, community leaders and citizens of Grass Valley gathered at the New Brighton Greens Resource Center's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mike Dent, Director of the Department of Social Services thanked all of the players involved, including multiple mentions of AFWD, since its inception last August, and accepted a certificate of appreciation from Senator Gaines, our local State Representative's office. The Ribbon was cut by Ed Scofield, District 2 Supervisor for Nevada County, and board member of NoRTEC's Workforce Development Board.

The building is 20,000 square-feet and was once a medical insurance call center. It is now a hub of integrated services for the Nevada County Health & Human Service Agency (HHS) and houses 90 county and contracted staff.

The Brighton Greens Resource Center houses seven divisions of HHS and shares clients from multiple facilities previously located miles apart: Veterans Services, CalWORKs Employment Services, Children's Behavioral Health, Child Protective Services, Woman, Infant and Children (WIC), Child Support Services representatives, and a Continuing Eligibility Unit. In addition, the Grass Valley One-Stop Business & Career Center operated by Alliance for Workforce Development, Inc. will continue to partner with CalWORKs Employment Services and offer employment services to all Nevada County residents in a portion of the building that has been designed specifically for their needs.

Tours of the facility were conducted by staff and delicious food was provided at multiple locations throughout the tour. Business & Career Network staff were on hand to answer questions about the center services for businesses and job seekers.

AFWD's Board President Connie Barton, Executive Director Traci Holt, Assistant Director Luis Moreno and the Fiscal Team as well as NoRTEC's Executive Director Michael Cross and staff were among many others present for the celebration.



NEG Drought - Temporary Jobs Program Update

Since July 2015 the Business and Career Network in Grass Valley has been recruiting temporary workers to assist public and non-profit entities with drought related projects as part of the second installment of the National Emergency Grant (NEG) Drought Program for Temporary Jobs Creation. Chris Dudiné came into the Business and Career Network in February 2016 seeking assistance finding employment. He had been unemployed since November 2014 when his work as a farmhand ended. Chris has a Bachelor of Science in Resource Management, but has been unable to secure employment in his field. Chris learned about a temporary job as a Land Restoration Stewardship Assistant/Trail Assistant position with Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) that was posted on our job board. This position was created to assist with drought mitigation efforts on the land preserves stewarded by the BYLT.

BYLT is a private, non-profit, membership supported organization that works to promote voluntary conservation of natural, historical and agricultural resources in the Bear and Yuba watersheds of the Sierra Nevada foothills. They do this through permanent protection and enhancement of natural areas, farms, ranches, trails and parks to provide a lasting community heritage with intact watersheds. Chris applied for and was selected for the position, which was funded with the National Emergency Grant for Temporary Jobs Creation.

Chris' primary worksite has been the Garden Bar Preserve, a 652-acre working cattle ranch with limited public access, located in Grass Valley and owned by BYLT. The preserve includes blue oak woodlands, grasslands, and over two miles of Bear River frontage and creeks. Keeping the blue oak woodland intact reduces soil erosion, sustains water quality, and provides wildlife habitat. Chris has been assisting with monitoring this area and other land owned by BYLT to determine best grazing management practices. His is also assisting with designing a program for BYLT that will allow rotational grazing on all of the Preserves. This will mitigate impacts to the land by having a set program for all of the preserves that will reduce invasive species and fuel loads for wildfires. Chris has also been assisting with building a perimeter fence for livestock management.

This project is aiding in drought mitigation by keeping neighboring cattle off the preserve so that they can no longer eat the grass and degrade the waterways. The exterior fence also protects important wildlife corridors and provides opportunities for river restoration that benefit a variety of river-dwelling wildlife. Projects that Chris is assisting with on other Preserves owned by BYLT include widening trails to allow for equestrian use, building retaining walls to hold the river bank, and installing interpretive panels to educate the public about water conservation, river restoration, as well as the history of mining and water diversions in California.

Through this work, Chris is able to assist with drought mitigation efforts in the local watershed region. Additionally, he is building important relationships and gaining opportunities to network. With any luck, this could lead to future employment for Chris after the conclusion of the TJC project.



A new location brings new faces

One of the new faces to come to the one stop at the New Brighton Greens Complex location in Grass Valley is Krista Woroschuk. She came into the Business and Career Center looking for information and direction in her job search and was assisted in the Resource Center. Sometimes a helpful nudge is all someone needs to help them feel encouraged, while looking for a job.

In Krista's words:

"Laura at the front desk was a wonderful welcome and gave me some helpful hints of where to start looking for jobs and showed me services that were available to me at the Resource Center...I mentioned to her that it had been awhile since I had been searching for a job...she said this was a wonderful place to start and that I was truly up for the challenge."

The AFWD, Inc. staff were supportive, giving Krista tips and information on how to interview successfully. Staff conducted a prescreen interview for Krista on behalf of a prospective employer.

Krista summarizes her experience at Grass Valley's Business and Career Center:

"I found my job at Jada Windows, a short time after beginning my job search. I am grateful for the support and constant encouragement I received from all the staff here."

Congratulations on your new job Krista!



Business Services Representative returns to AFWD, Inc.

Wendy Sweeney has returned to the AFWD team after leaving two years ago. Wendy has over 18 years of working in the employment and training field, three of those years were with AFWD in the Oroville One Stop as a Career Center Advisor and then a Business Services Representative. Prior to AFWD coming into Butte County, she was a Business Services Representative for the prior service provider. She is very excited to come back to the career she loves and is glad to be given the opportunity to work in a new area. Wendy said, "The Grass Valley office is so warm and inviting both in appearance and its staff". "The team here at the Business and career Network in Grass Valley and in the Truckee offices are very friendly and welcoming, as well as the people I have met in the business community". Wendy loves working with businesses to assist them with their human resource questions, job postings and connecting them to skilled employees and offering them the availability of skills training when needed.

Welcome Back Wendy!



Job Fair & Career Expo in Nevada County

Our Grass Valley office will be co-sponsoring a job fair on April 13th from 10am to 2pm at the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall at 255 S. Auburn St. The job fair is presented by the Nevada County Board of Realtors, Nevada County Regional Chambers of Commerce, The Union and the Nevada County Business and Career Network. The theme for this year's job fair is "Meet Your Match" where employers and job seekers will come together in one place. Staff have been very busy recruiting employers and outreaching to job seekers to make this job fair a huge success. The Business and Career Network provided a workshop to prepare job seekers in advance of the Job Fair so they have the tools they need to make a great first impression, learn how to work the room and land a new career.



In Truckee, Sierra College Tahoe-Truckee will host a Career Expo and Open House on April 22nd from 11am to 1:30 pm. Attendees can learn about Sierra College's degree and transfer programs, receive help with completing the FAFSA and meet employers. Staff from the Truckee Business and Career Center will be on hand to speak with job seekers and provide information on services available to assist them with their educational and employment goals.



Truckee Office Stays Busy, Even In The Winter

Testimonials:

*“What a pleasure to have this facility available to those of us living in Eastern Nevada Co. This is a valuable resource to assist job seekers using computers specifically programmed for various job sites, education and training...Staff is very good with assessing people’s needs, abilities, deficiencies, interviewing techniques etc., while guiding them through the searching process”. – **J. Holmer***

*“Through the Business & Career Network I have been able to access current and up to date employers and check the job list board. I also got a lot of help with my computer, resume and interview skills. I learned to prepare a cover letter. I took a computer class that was being offered. I was able to bring to employers a well-organized and well prepared application. This was a great help. I am very grateful”. – **G. Mott***

*“...The moment I walked in for help I was greeted with respect...not only were the staff understanding and compassionate, they gave me all the resources necessary to move forward in the process. I learned to write a resume, cover letter, and how to present myself in an interview and how to appeal to the job that I was interested in. As a resident of Truckee it is comforting to know that there are these types of resources available.” – **D.Pascal***

The winter snow has not slowed us down here at the Truckee office. It has been nice to see the number of visitors increase each day. Word has gotten out that we are open and local employers have been calling and asking for assistance in various areas. It feels like spring has sprung here in the Truckee office. The last three months have been an adventure filled with new friends, co-workers, partnerships, challenges and triumphs, and reaching out to the wonderful town of Truckee. Our office has been bustling with customers working on resumes and cover letters and looking for just the right job postings to apply to. Some jobseekers have been fortunate in finding jobs right away; others have had to work harder and learn new skills such as typing, computers, and creating resumes and cover letters, along with interviewing skills and attending workshops to help them in their job search. While learning their new skills they have made use of the computer lab and the classes we offer and have had a little fun while role playing and working on interviewing skills. We have been busy developing our partnerships with other agencies to better serve our customers. Some of our new partners are Sierra College, Department of Rehabilitation, Nevada County Social Services, Project Mana, and Nevada County Health and Human Services and Sierra Nevada Children’s Services and the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce. Flowers are starting to bloom, and our garden is growing with each smile that walks through the door.





AFWD America's Job Center of California Statistics

Nevada County Visitors
10,103

AFWD Business Services

Business Served	995
Service Provided	5,644
Positions Filled	1,240
Training Assistance	157

Program Services

Total enrollments

Adult	154
Dislocated Worker	130
Youth	57
Employed	223

Unemployment Rate

Butte	7.2%	Nevada	5.0%
Lassen	8.4%	Plumas	13.7%
Modoc	10.1%	Sierra	10.0%



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