



SISKIYOU COUNTY EDITION



America's **JobCenter**
of CaliforniaSM

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

April – June 2025

WORKCON 2025 – Strength in Change: Resilience for the Future



SMART staff was proud to attend WORKCON 2025, the California Workforce Association's Annual Workforce Practitioners Conference, held from April 29 to May 1 at the Hilton Costa Mesa in Orange County. The conference theme, *Strength in Change: Resilience for the Future*, resonated deeply with our mission as we joined workforce development professionals, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and WIOA partners from across the state. This dynamic event provided an outstanding platform to engage with innovative programs and strategic collaborations that are shaping the future of workforce services in California.

Throughout the three-day event, our team participated in a range of workshops and sessions focused on emerging trends, including the integration of AI and technology in the workforce, the use of WIOA and other strategic funds, statewide advocacy efforts to improve accessibility of the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), and other best practices in program design to bring our client services to the next level. The conference's four dedicated tracks—Youth Workforce Services, Administrative Services, Case Management, and Business Services—allowed us to tailor our learning and bring back actionable insights to improve our services and outcomes.

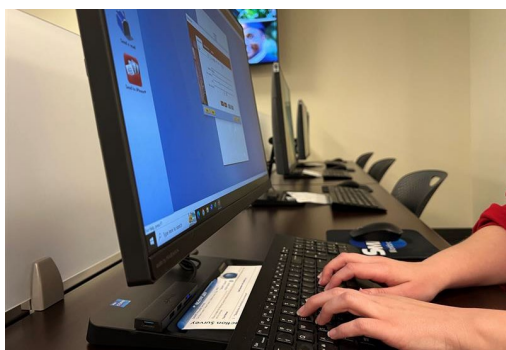
We're excited to apply what we learned and continue building resilient, inclusive programs that help individuals thrive in a rapidly evolving job market.

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It's Job Fair Season!

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SMART Adapts Rapid Response Services to Reach Rural Communities



As federal funding cuts continue to impact organizations across the country, SMART Workforce Center has expanded its Rapid Response efforts to ensure that critical services remain accessible. This is especially crucial for impacted individuals here in the rural North State, where public transportation is extremely limited and reliable access to in-person services can be a major hurdle. With an expansive service area that spans Del Norte, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties, reaching job seekers efficiently and equitably requires creative, adaptive solutions.

To meet this challenge, SMART has launched weekly *Virtual Rapid Response* sessions designed to bring essential support directly to those affected by layoffs or business closures, no matter where they live. These virtual events connect participants to job search resources, resume assistance, and paid On The Job Training opportunities. We have also partnered with local EDD representatives who attend to provide information regarding unemployment benefits and EDD services. By removing transportation and distance as barriers, SMART ensures that workers across the region can access the tools they need to recover and thrive.

Co-location Best Practices Shared with County of Merced

SMART has always recognized one fundamental truth: community partnership is vital to our strength as an organization. One of the most tangible examples of this is our journey to co-location. What began as a foot in the door created by necessity quickly and powerfully paved the way for ongoing collaboration with our community partners. This is especially evident with our community college partners Shasta College and College of the Siskiyous, who now share two permanent job center locations with SMART. Shasta College and College of the Siskiyous are now also sharing a Director of Employer Partnership (DEP) who is housed in the shared College of the Siskiyous/SMART Job Center in Weed.

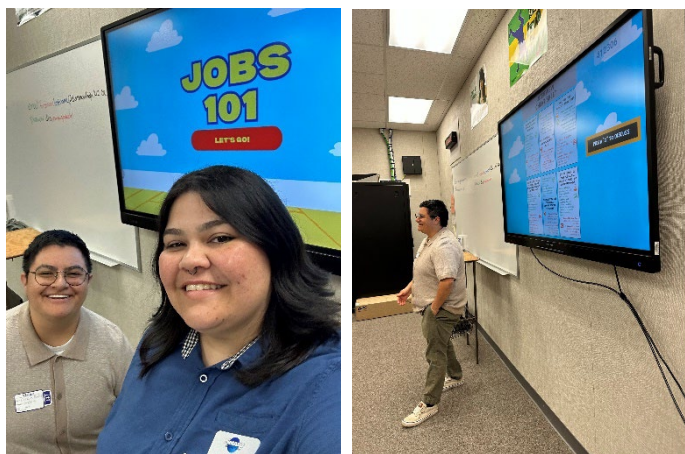


SMART was proud to share our knowledge of what has worked and lessons learned along the way with our friend at Worknet Merced County. Executive Director Rigo Medina personally travelled to Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties to observe our co-location job centers. Rigo was a wealth of workforce knowledge and we enjoyed spending the week with him and connecting on best practices and sharing aligned hopes for the future of a collaborative world of workforce development.

SMART Professional Development

- Protecting Against Wage & Hour Disputes
- Wage and Hour – Most Common Violations
- Workplace Safety- Avoiding the Cal/OSHA Fines
- Best Practices -LMI & Occupational Data
- Conflict Resolution
- Shasta County CalWorks Employment Services
- Redding Area Bus Authority
- Nation's Finest Veteran Services
- REALM Grant Planning Workgroup
- Shasta College A\$ET Program
- Regional Data Report from EDD Data Analyst Back Safety in Office Environments
- Fire Prevention & Fire Extinguisher Use
- Situational Awareness
- And More!

Dunsmuir High School College and Career Fair



On the morning of April 16, SMART Workforce Center participated for the first time in the Dunsmuir High School College and Career Fair. Staff members Audile and Erika led six engaging classroom sessions focused on resume building, helping students understand not only how to create a resume, but why it matters in their career journey. Each session included a presentation and take-home handouts full of practical tips and resources. Since students signed up in advance to attend, there was strong interest and participation, and many shared afterward that they had a clearer understanding of what a resume is and how it can support their goals.

While the classes were in session, SMART hosted an information booth, where students could stop by to learn more about the free employment services we offer. Many were especially interested in our Young Adult program, which connects them to career advisors who provide one-on-one guidance. In addition to sharing information about our job centers and supportive services, we also distributed resume-building resources. Most other exhibitors were employers actively hiring high school graduates, making SMART's presence as a support service especially valuable. We're looking forward to returning next year!



Tulelake Career and Resource Fair

The Tulelake Career & Resource Fair on April 4th brought together local residents, service providers, and community organizations for a day of connection, support, and celebration. There were 12 booths where our partners such as Tiny Mighty Strong, Siskiyou Childcare Council, Pacific Power, Cal OES Siskiyou, and more were able to connect with the 55 participants that came out. SMART Workforce Center was on site to connect job seekers with our job search and career center services. Other highlights of the event included the Taqueria Mi Mexico food truck and the free haircut service.



Dorris Career and Resource Fair

The April 11th Dorris Career and Resource fair brought together support for individuals and families in one place for the rural residents of Dorris. More than 15 organizations participated, offering resources such as SMART's career services and Rescue Ranch's on-site microchipping and vaccination services for four-legged family members. Participants enjoyed the refreshments of local food vendors, free activities suitable for all ages, and raffle prizes throughout the day.



Inaugural CTE Fair Lets Students Get Hands on with Career Exploration



On April 25, 2025, SMART Workforce Center was proud to support and participate in the 1st Annual Siskiyou County Middle School CTE Day at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds hosted by SiskiyouWorks.

Hundreds of 7th and 8th grade students came out to explore a variety of Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways, including agriculture, health sciences, IT, public services, arts and media, business, and more. Through interactive booths, hands-on activities, and guidance from local professionals and high school presenters, students gained valuable insight into future career opportunities and how their education connects to real-world jobs.

Thank you to our partner and host of this event SiskiyouWorks. Together we are inspiring the next generation and helping build strong, bright futures for youth in Siskiyou County!



Elijah Powers Forward with First Steps to Success

Elijah came to SMART seeking support in finding his first full-time job. As a justice-involved youth experiencing homelessness, Elijah faced several barriers, including lack of work experience and reliable transportation. Though he had held some part-time and volunteer positions, he had never held a full-time position. His goal: secure stable employment in HVAC or the general labor field. SMART, thanks to the HIRE grant, was able to enroll Elijah to help make that goal a reality.

After completing a comprehensive assessment, SMART staff identified Elijah's needs and began building a tailored plan for his success. He received interview prep materials and was scheduled for a mock interview. With guidance and encouragement, Elijah began building the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the workforce. SMART also ensured that he was aware of the supportive services available through the HIRE grant, such as help getting work clothing or addressing transportation barriers.

Elijah is now actively engaged, committing to his goals, and well on his way to launching his career. His story reflects how with the right support, challenges both internal and external can be overcome!



On-The-Job Training and Work Experience Partners:

- CGI Technical Services, Inc.
- Cinders Woodfired Pizza
- County of Del Norte
- County of Trinity
- Dee Stover State Farm
- Del Norte Child Care Council
- Del Norte County Fairgrounds
- Del Norte Mission Impossible
- Emerald Ridge Construction
- Frank Johnston Upholstery
- Joy's Yard & Ground Maintenance
- Kindred Hearts
- Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant
- Mama Llama Eatery and Café
- Orcas Heating & Refrigeration
- Pro Garage Doors
- Rumiano Cheese
- Rural Human Services
- Shasta Caverns
- Shasta Family YMCA
- Shiloh Flower Farms
- Southern Oregon Goodwill
- Steve's Custom Upholstery
- Summit Lofts
- Taste & See Creamery
- Trinity County Fairgrounds & Events
- Turtle Bay Exploration Park
- US Forest Service
- Zephyrs Books and Coffee

Fire Technology Careers Fueled Through SMART Support

In a powerful demonstration of community investment and workforce development, SMART Workforce proudly supported eight dedicated students through the Fire Technology program at the College of the Siskiyous. SMART Workforce's assistance provided vital financial relief for uniforms, protective gear, and other training-related expenses that are essential for firefighter readiness and safety.



With SMART Workforce's support, all eight students successfully completed the Fire Technology program and graduated on May 2, 2025. Their hard work, combined with the resources provided, has paid off—every graduate has received a job offer in the fire service field. These new opportunities mark the beginning of meaningful, life-saving careers in public safety.

By reducing financial barriers, SMART Workforce enabled students to focus on their training and performance. This investment not only benefits the individuals involved but also strengthens emergency response capacity in our region. These graduates will serve in roles across California and beyond, carrying with them the skills and values instilled at the College of the Siskiyous and supported by SMART Workforce.

Congratulations Class of 2025!

Dedication and Drive: Jenine's Journey Through the College of the Siskiyous Law Enforcement Academy

Jenine Steinberg began her journey at the College of the Siskiyous Law Enforcement Academy in January 2025 and successfully graduated on June 13, 2025. With the support of SMART, she received assistance covering training-related expenses, including her physical training and class uniforms.

Throughout the program, Jenine demonstrated unwavering dedication and a strong commitment to mastering the knowledge and skills required to pursue a career in law enforcement. Her hard work and perseverance have not gone unnoticed—she is currently undergoing the background process with the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety.

We are proud to support Jenine in her pursuit of becoming a police officer and look forward to seeing the positive impact she will make in her community.





SMART Workforce Center is a
Proud Partner of:



Proudly serving our community since 1979, SMART Workforce Center is a 501c3 non-profit committed to helping job seekers find jobs, increase training and skills, and increase earnings. We also invest in our local economy by helping businesses grow. To learn more, visit our website: www.thesmartcenter.biz

SMART Workforce Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities. CA Relay TTY 7-1-1

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Weed, CA

Siskiyou County
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Yreka, CA

Trinity County
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Weaverville, CA