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of California<sup>SM</sup>

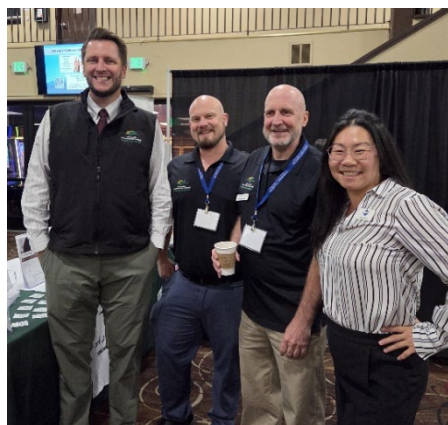
## COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

October -December 2025

DEL NORTE COUNTY EDITION

### Advancing Workforce Solutions at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual SHRM Northstate HR Summit

SMART Workforce Center staff were proud to participate in the 9th Annual HR Summit hosted by SHRM Northstate on October 21. As attendees, our team engaged in sessions designed to strengthen HR professionals' resilience, creativity, and connection. The Summit featured thought-provoking keynotes and focused breakout sessions on topics such as trends in retaliation claims, documentation best practices, and strategies to enhance employee engagement.



In addition to attending, SMART hosted a vendor booth in the event's expo area, allowing our staff to connect directly with regional employers. This provided an opportunity to highlight our suite of employer services, share how we support recruitment and training needs, and build relationships among HR practitioners and solution providers. Our presence aligned seamlessly with the Summit's emphasis on networking and innovation in HR practices.

SMART's participation also reinforced the importance of our partnerships with community

sponsors such as Alliance for Workforce Development, Shasta College, and North Valley Employer Advisor Council, as we work collaboratively to advance workforce readiness and employer engagement across the region.



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## Celebrating Culture and Community: SMART at the Hmong New Year

In November 2025, SMART Workforce Center staff attended the Hmong New Year celebration in Crescent City, Del Norte County, to connect with local community members in a culturally meaningful setting. By participating in the festivities, SMART staff were able to meet Hmong families, listen to their stories, and engage in conversations about workforce development, training, and employment opportunities. Their presence reflected a commitment to supporting the community not just through services, but through personal connection and cultural understanding.



The event also provided SMART with an opportunity to learn more about the unique needs and interests of the Hmong community, strengthening its ability to deliver tailored programs and resources. By showing up in a celebratory and respectful environment, SMART reinforced its role as a trusted partner in inclusive workforce development, demonstrating that building relationships is as important as offering services.



## Supporting The Next Generation at the Del Norte Youth Wellness Summit

SMART recently participated in the Del Norte County Youth Wellness Summit, an event dedicated to strengthening youth connectedness and promoting wellness across Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands. Hosted at the Del Norte County Recreation Hall, the Summit brought together community partners, schools, and organizations to highlight resources that support mental health, wellness, and positive community engagement.

This year's theme, "Strengths and Supports," encouraged students, particularly 12th graders, to explore the many ways they can access help for themselves, their families, and their peers. Through interactive booths and activities, youth connected directly with local organizations, learning that they play an important role as "connectors to hope, help, and strength." The event provided a safe, inclusive space where students could discover how their voices and creativity can be agents of change in building a healthier community. SMART was proud to table alongside partners like the Yurok Tribe, True North Organizing Network, and Coastal Connections to share workforce resources and support youth empowerment in Del Norte County.



On-The-Job Training and Work Experience Partners:

- Baez Childcare
- Beneficial Insectary
- Blink Optometry
- County of Del Norte
- County of Trinity
- Del Norte Mission Possible
- Dr. Lloyd Braemer
- Emerald Ridge Construction
- Fastners, Inc.
- Itza Pizza
- Macy’s Flying Service, Inc.
- Maro Noodle House
- McHale Signs
- Redding Fashion Alliance
- Rod’s Radiator
- Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries
- Steve’s Upholstery
- Sweetspot
- Tiny Mighty Strong And More!

Jeffrey’s Story of Perseverance

Jeffrey’s journey with the SMART Workforce Center reflects resilience, determination, and steady progress toward long-term stability. After returning to the community following a lengthy incarceration, Jeffrey secured employment with Wright’s Tree Service. When he was later laid off along with the rest of the crew, he came to the SMART Workforce Center seeking support to get back on his feet and continue providing for his family.

Rather than becoming discouraged, Jeffrey turned this setback into an opportunity to gain new experience. He began a temporary Facilities Maintenance Worker Assistant position with the County of Del Norte, where he developed new skills, learned to work with unfamiliar tools, and built strong professional relationships. Supervisors consistently noted his reliability, positive attitude, and willingness to stay busy and support his coworkers.



As Jeffrey continued to demonstrate his strong work ethic, his previous employer reached out with an offer to return—this time to a full-time position with increased wages. With SMART’s support, including assistance with required work attire and boots for outdoor work, Jeffrey was able to transition smoothly back into full-time employment with Wright’s Tree Service. Today, he is earning a stable income and moving forward with confidence. Jeffrey’s story highlights how persistence, workforce support, and opportunity can help individuals overcome setbacks and build a sustainable future.

SMART Professional Development

- Anti-Harassment Training for Employees – California
- Ethics in the Workplace
- Bullying and Other Disruptive Behaviors
- Fighting Fatigue in the Workplace
- Current/New 2026 Labor Law Updates & Tips for Employment Litigation Risks
- LMI & Occupational Data with EDD
- Shasta College Step Up Partner Share
- Shasta County CFET Partner Share
- California Human Development Partner Share
- RABA Partner Share
- AJCC Best Practices w/ EDD
- And more!



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](http://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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