



America's **JobCenter**
of CaliforniaSM

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

January - March 2025

DEL NORTE COUNTY EDITION

SMART Supports Digital Literacy for English Language Learners in Rural NorCal

SMART is excited to help our English Language Learner (ELL) job seekers find career success in manufacturing through the Rural Access for English Learners Manufacturing (REALM) grant!

SMART surveyed local businesses about their current and future business needs, their willingness to engage with this labor pool, and any barriers in the workplace that this population may face.

One critical barrier identified was digital literacy. Many job applications, onboarding processes, and workplace communications are conducted online, requiring a basic understanding of digital platforms. Additionally, manufacturing jobs increasingly require the use of digital tools for tasks such as operating machinery, tracking inventory, and communicating within a team.

To address this crucial need, SMART is connecting ELL job seekers to NoRTEC's Access Points Digital Literacy Project. Through Access Points, ELL job seekers will receive personalized assistance to gain those essential skills needed to navigate modern workplace technologies.



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2025 Annual Crescent City/Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner

The 2025 Annual Chamber Awards Dinner was a night to remember as the Crescent City/Del Norte County Chamber of Commerce celebrated the achievements and contributions of outstanding businesses and community leaders. The event honored those who have made a significant impact on our local economy and community, recognizing their dedication, innovation, and excellence. Attendees enjoyed an evening filled with inspiring speeches, well-deserved awards, and a strong sense of camaraderie.



In addition to the awards ceremony, guests had the opportunity to network with fellow business leaders, meet new faces, and strengthen connections within our thriving business community. The evening featured a delicious dinner, engaging conversations, and heartfelt moments of recognition. It was truly a night of celebration, bringing together longtime business owners, emerging entrepreneurs, and dedicated community supporters to honor success and foster future growth. Thank you to the Crescent City/Del Norte Chamber of Commerce staff and volunteers, for making this event such a memorable occasion!

“Go Red 2025” Heart Health Fundraiser Luncheon

We love to rep SMART blue, but we’re happy to throw on some red for a good cause. SMART attended the “Go Red” 2025 fundraiser luncheon to support women’s heart health. We’d like to extend a special thank you to Sherrie Curry and CGI Technical Services, Inc. for lending us Karrissa to join our table!



Success Story: Angel's Journey to a New Career

Angel connected with SMART after experiencing job loss due to a business closure, where she had been working as an Assistant Manager. With SMART's guidance and support, Angel explored various opportunities that matched her aspirations.

After identifying potential roles that aligned with her experience and goals, Angel applied for an Administrative Assistant position at Del Norte Child Care Council. Her professionalism, enthusiasm, and strong customer service background made her an excellent candidate, and she was soon offered a full-time position. SMART played a key role in facilitating this transition by assisting her through an On-the-Job training opportunity, ensuring she had the resources and support needed to succeed.



Reflecting on her journey, Angel expressed deep gratitude for the assistance she received:

“Having that level of support [from SMART] made a significant difference in my confidence and ability to pursue new opportunities.” - Angel

“The Workforce has helped me many times over the years. They have supported me in creating a resume, finding jobs that fit my skills, and even providing new clothes for work. Having that level of support made a significant difference in my confidence and ability to pursue new opportunities.”

Since joining Del Norte Child Care Council, Angel has made a lasting impression on her colleagues and supervisors. Her manager highlighted her dedication and rapid growth, stating:

“Angel joined us with a strong background in customer service, and she has quickly demonstrated an impressive skill set as an administrative assistant. From day one, she took the initiative to reorganize and improve the efficiency of the front desk, creating a more streamlined and welcoming workspace. She approaches every task with enthusiasm, ensuring assignments are completed accurately and on time. Her eagerness to learn about our agency's mission and impact on families, combined with her willingness to take on new responsibilities, makes her an invaluable part of our team.”

Angel's success story exemplifies the impact of workforce development programs and the power of resilience in the face of career challenges. Through the partnership between SMART and Del Norte Child Care Council, she is gaining critical office and administrative experience that will support her long-term career growth. Angel's journey serves as a testament to the importance of accessible career support services and the transformative opportunities they provide for individuals seeking meaningful employment.

Building Bridges Family Summit Supports Student Success



*Above: Keynote Speaker,
Reid Powell*

The 1st Annual Building Bridges Family Summit, hosted by the Del Norte County Office of Education, brought families together for a day of learning, connection, and fun at Crescent Elk Middle School. This free event provided an invaluable opportunity for parents, students, and community members to engage in workshops designed to support student success. From navigating technology and online safety to preparing for grade transitions, attendees gained practical tools and resources to strengthen the bridge between home and school.

SMART Program Supervisor, Christy Hernandez, along with Sunset High Principal, Tony Fabricius, facilitated a workshop titled “Preparing Your Child for Success Beyond High School”. This session provided valuable insights into Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Pathways, SMART services and programs, and the E3 Summer Youth Program, equipping families with information to help students navigate their future career and educational opportunities.

In addition to the informative sessions, families enjoyed free food, exciting prizes, and interactive activities throughout the day. With lunch, refreshments, and childcare provided, the event was welcoming and accessible for all. The summit fostered a sense of community, encouraging meaningful discussions and connections among educators, parents, and students. Thank you to everyone who participated in making this first-ever event a success—we look forward to continuing to build bridges for a stronger future!



On-The-Job Training and Work Experience Partners:

- County of Del Norte
- Dee Stover State Farm
- Del Norte Fairgrounds
- Joy's Yard & Ground Maintenance
- Del Norte Child Care Council
- The UPS Store
- Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant
- Summit Lofts
- CGI Technical Services, Inc.
- Rural Human Services
- US-Offsite Holdings, Inc.
- Shasta Caverns
- New Life Discovery Project
- Frank Johnson's Upholstery
- County of Trinity Health and Human Services
- Emerald Ridge Construction
- Rumiano Cheese Company
- Watershed Research & Training Center
- Del Norte Senior Center
- Baez Childcare
- Catalyst Neuromedical
- US Forest Service

Young Adult River Makes Big Impression



When River decided to start his job search, a family member who had previously used our services recommended the SMART Workforce Center. There, he met with a Career Advisor who guided him through the process, helping him understand what it takes to be a successful employee. SMART then arranged an interview with the Redwood Parks Conservancy and a Parks Supervisor to explore the opportunity for a Work Experience (WEX) position.

“His positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to tackle any task with enthusiasm have made a noticeable impact on both the quality of work and the morale of the team.” – River’s Supervisor

River began his WEX, where he was placed with the Custodial/Ground department with National & State Parks. His WEX Supervisor, Eric, shared, “River has been an incredibly valuable asset to our custodial and grounds team. His positive attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to tackle any task with enthusiasm have made a noticeable impact on both the quality of our work and the morale of the team. Always punctual and reliable, River consistently shows up ready to contribute and sets a great example of professionalism and dedication. His attention to detail and commitment to maintaining the park’s cleanliness and beauty have not gone unnoticed, and we truly appreciate the energy and positivity he brings to the team every day.” River’s experience in the program has helped him gain practical skills, build confidence, and make connections with his colleagues.

SMART Professional Development

- Employee Handbook
- Worker’s Compensation: Key Do’s and Don’ts for Employers
- Protecting Your Small Business Against Embezzlement
- Best Practices- LMI & Occupational Data- NORTEC
- North State Together Summit
- AFWD/SMART Best Practices
- Shasta College Veterans Services
- Shasta College Contract and Community Education
- Back Safety in Office Environments
- EDD Partnership Best Practices
- NFN Career Compass Summit
- Winter Safety
- MIP training
- REALM Grant Planning Workgroup
- First 5 Programs
- Economic Forecast Conference
- Effective Outreach and Recruitment of Underserved Populations
- And more!

Gathering Crucial Snapshot and Providing Resources for Unhoused Individuals in Del Norte County

SMART staff participated in the annual Point in Time (PIT) count event for Del Norte County, which took place at the local Recreation Center. The PIT count is a crucial survey conducted every January to assess the number of sheltered and unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a single day. This effort was led by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in collaboration with various community partners.

As an active community partner, SMART Workforce Center was proud to participate in the event by hosting an informational table. This provided an opportunity to connect directly with individuals in need, offering valuable resources and employment services to support their path toward stability. By collaborating with DHHS and other local organizations, SMART reaffirmed its commitment to assisting all members of the community in accessing vital services, fostering a more supportive and resilient network for those facing housing insecurity.

Environmental Careers through California Conservation Corps

SMART staff recently visited the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for a tour of their facility, exploring opportunities to support Corpsmembers as they take the next steps in their careers. The CCC, which serves counties across Northern California provides young adults with hands-on training in wildland firefighting, habitat restoration, and trail maintenance. For many participants, the CCC is a challenging but rewarding experience, offering valuable skills in operating heavy equipment, chainsaws, and forklifts while working on critical conservation projects.



Given Del Norte County's rugged landscape and wildfire risks, the CCC plays a vital role in developing a workforce skilled in natural resource management and emergency response. Many local participants go on to careers in forestry, conservation, and public safety, helping to protect and maintain the region's natural environment. During the visit, SMART staff met with CCC directors to share information on job search resources available to Corpsmembers as they transition into the next phase of their careers.





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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