



SISKIYOU COUNTY EDITION

America's **JobCenter**
of CaliforniaSMCOMMUNITY
COORDINATOR
REPORT

July – September 2025

MEETING OF THE MINDS Workforce Conference Focuses on Turning Uncertainty into Opportunity

SMART staff from all four service counties participated in this year's California Workforce Association Meeting of the Minds conference, themed "*Fearless Forward: Turning Uncertainty into Opportunity*." The event brought together workforce leaders from across the state to explore strategies in business-led innovation, trauma-informed programming, data-driven decision making, and emerging technologies like AI and VR in training. By engaging in these conversations, SMART staff strengthened connections and brought back fresh ideas to enhance services and outcomes in the communities we serve.



In addition to innovation and technology, this year's conference emphasized collaboration and adaptability as key drivers of workforce success. Sessions highlighted the importance of cross-sector partnerships, aligning education and industry needs, and creating inclusive pathways for populations often left behind in economic transitions. SMART staff had the opportunity to hear directly from state and national leaders on policy trends shaping the future of work, from climate-resilient job sectors to equitable access to digital skills. The conference reinforced the value of continuous learning and proactive leadership, inspiring participants to translate statewide insights into locally responsive strategies that strengthen the regional workforce system.

Inside This Issue

[Mount Shasta Job Fair](#)

Page 3

How “Happy Little Sawmills” Are Powering Rural Workforce in Siskiyou and Modoc Counties



SMART, in partnership with the Siskiyou Climate Collaborative, attended the recent Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition meeting in Mount Shasta. The event highlighted an innovative effort led by Siskiyou and Modoc residents Laurel and Eli, supported by a \$650,000 state grant, to develop “Happy Little Sawmills” across Siskiyou and Modoc Counties. These small-scale mills aim to reduce fire risk, support conservation, create local jobs, and keep more wood resources in-state, while also building long-term community collaboration and workforce pathways through programs like wood-related certifications at College of the Siskiyous.

On-The-Job Training and Work Experience Partners:

- City of Crescent City
- County of Del Norte
- County of Trinity
- County of Trinity Solid Waste
- Del Norte Mission Possible
- Del Norte Senior Center
- Emerald Ridge Construction
- Giles Insurance Services
- Kindred Hearts
- Pennie’s Pet Parlour
- Redding Fashion Alliance
- Royal Plumbing
- Siskiyou Domestic Violence & Crisis Center
- Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries
- Steve’s Custom Upholstery
- Sweetspot
- The Fly Shop
- US Offsite
- And More!



Coffee and Opportunities Brewing - Mount Shasta Job Fair



SMART Workforce Center recently hosted a micro job fair in Mount Shasta, bringing together local employers, job seekers, and community partners for a morning of meaningful connections. The event was small in scale but big in impact—creating a welcoming space for personalized conversations and on-the-spot networking. A huge thank-you to everyone who attended and to our incredible partners—the College of the Siskiyous, Mt. Shasta Chamber of Commerce, and Theory Coffee Roasters—for helping make the event a true success. With great coffee, great energy, and great opportunities, this micro job fair showcased the power of community collaboration in supporting local employment.



SMART Professional Development

- The AI Evolution in Phishing Attacks
- Fighting Fatigue in the Workplace
- Social Media and Email Safety
- SMART Accessibility Services
- 2025 Changes to Employee Payroll Taxes Best Practices - LMI & Occupational Data with EDD
- CalWorks Employment Services
- Shasta County Veterans Services
- Cal-AIM- Shasta Community Health Center
- Regional Data Report from EDD Data Analyst

And more!

From Bakery Helper to Brew Pro: DeLeighney Finds Success in Her First Job at Zephyr Books & Coffee

When DeLeighney first came to the SMART Workforce Center, she was looking for an opportunity to gain her first-ever work experience. Unemployed and with no prior job history, she was eager to build her skills, gain confidence, and find long-term, full-time employment. Through the support of SMART's Young Adult Program, DeLeighney received assistance creating her resume and cover letters, along with interview coaching and job readiness training to prepare for her entry into the workforce.

DeLeighney was soon matched with a Work Experience (WEX) opportunity as a Bakery Helper at Zephyr Books & Coffee in Yreka. Her placement allowed her to turn her passion for baking—something she had enjoyed as a hobby for the past two years—into hands-on job training.



Owner Danielle quickly noticed DeLeighney's strong work ethic and attention to detail, noting that she was "impressed with her skills and motivation to learn." As the weeks went on, DeLeighney continued to grow, gaining confidence and developing new technical skills in the bakery.

By the end of her WEX, DeLeighney had proven herself to be an invaluable member of the team. Danielle was so pleased with her progress that she offered to retain her after the WEX and cross-train her as a Barista—expanding her role into both the bakery and café sides of the business.

To support this next step, SMART helped set up an On-the-Job Training (OJT) agreement for DeLeighney's new role as a Bake & Brew Associate, giving her the chance to deepen her barista skills while earning income and continued mentorship.

Today, DeLeighney is thriving at Zephyr Books & Coffee, mastering everything from baking pastries to crafting the perfect latte. Her journey from an unemployed job seeker to a skilled, retained employee is a shining example of how SMART programs help local young adults turn ambition into opportunity.



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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