



America's **JobCenter**
of CaliforniaSM

COMMUNITY COORDINATOR REPORT

January - March 2025

TRINITY 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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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 Trinity 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.

"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!



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

North State Together 2025 Summit “The Sustainability Blueprint: Tools for Long-Term Success”

Photos in this article courtesy of North State Together



Above: Dr. Kevin O'Rorke, CEO of North State Together

The 8th Annual North State Together Summit, themed "The Sustainability Blueprint: Tools for Long-Term Success," took place on March 13, 2025, at the Sheraton Redding Hotel at the Sundial Bridge in Redding, California. This highly anticipated event brought together educators, policymakers, industry leaders, and community members to discuss and develop strategies for building sustainable cradle-to-career pathways in the North State region.

The summit began with a keynote address by Michael Wiafe, Assistant Deputy Cabinet Secretary in the Office of California



Above: Michael Wiafe, Assistant Deputy Cabinet Secretary at the Office of California Gov. Gavin Newsom

Governor Gavin Newsom. He spoke about the state's Master Plan for Career Education, which aims to expand equitable access to living-wage jobs by strengthening education and job training pathways. Following the keynote, Kate Gordon, CEO of CA FWD, led a session on "Place-Based Economics," where she emphasized the significance of building partnerships to foster shared prosperity across the North State and throughout California.



Above: Kate Gordon, CEO of CA FWD

A series of breakout sessions provided attendees with opportunities to explore specific aspects of sustainability and collaboration. In "Electrifying Youth Leadership," Bode Gower and Dr. Karen Schreder highlighted the disparities rural youth face and discussed strategies to elevate and engage their voices in shaping policies and education. In "Bridging the Gap," Courtney Farrell introduced initiatives like North State Jobs First and the K-16 Collaborative, which aim to unite education, workforce development, and industry to create a resilient economy while sustaining the region's working lands. Additionally, Rosemary Mitchell and Joy Garcia led a session on "Community Schools," explaining how this model functions as both a school reform effort and a community development strategy by integrating local supports and collaborative leadership.

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*Above: Heather Hadwick,
Assemblywoman District 1,
California State Assembly*

During the afternoon, Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick shared her personal journey of overcoming adversity with the help of dedicated educators. She emphasized the essential tools educators need to ensure students' long-term success and discussed strategies for building relationships with legislators to advocate for impactful educational policies.

The summit concluded with a "Celebration of Progress," where regional directors highlighted accomplishments and ongoing initiatives within their counties. This closing session reinforced the collective commitment to fostering sustainable educational and economic opportunities throughout the North State region. Overall, the event facilitated meaningful discussions, shared best practices, and introduced forward-thinking solutions to empower long-term success in education, workforce development, and community impact.

Fire Academy Training Support from SMART Sparks Career Success

SMART had the privilege of assisting a dedicated young man in his journey to a career in firefighting. Through the program, he received support with school costs for the Shasta College Fire Academy, as well as essential work clothing for his new role with Cal Fire. With prior experience as an electrician's helper, he was determined to build a better future for himself despite past justice involvement. His hard work and perseverance paid off—he successfully completed the rigorous 21-unit Fire Academy course with an "A," earned a spot on the Dean's List, and obtained his Fire Academy Certificate while also completing additional Fire Science classes. Now, he has officially been hired by Cal Fire as part of their engine crew!



Addressing Federal Hiring Freeze Concerns

SMART Workforce Center is prioritizing supporting our partners at the United States Forest Service (USFS) and special grants clients who find themselves out of work as federal funding freezes result in layoffs. We are looking for creative solutions, such as partnering with the Watershed Research Center in Trinity County as a possible temporary worksite for affected Dislocated Workers. We are committed to maintaining the relationships of our community partners and the trust of our special grants clientele affected by this current funding climate.

A Second Chance Built to Last: Travis' Path to Employment with SMART

Travis was referred to SMART by US Offsite, a company that builds Accessible Dwelling Units or ADUs. They were interested in hiring him but felt he would benefit from some additional training. Travis didn't graduate from high school and had been in and out of prison for the last 25 years. Travis is newly married with two young children;

"I wish I had 100 more employees just like Travis. We are so lucky to have him." – Travis' Supervisor

he was driven to find stable employment where they would be financially secure. The SMART Center was able to assist with a four-month On-The-Job Training at US Offsite where Travis flourished gaining knowledge and skills in a construction labor position. His supervisor stated, "I wish I had 100 more employees just like Travis. We are so lucky to have him." Travis successfully completed the On-The-Job Training and is beyond thankful for the opportunities The SMART Center was able to provide him and his family.

Outreach to Weaverville Rotary

On February 25, 2025, SMART Workforce Center had the chance to speak with a small group of about 10 members at the Weaverville Rotary Luncheon. It was a great opportunity to share information about the services SMART offers to both job seekers and local businesses. We highlighted programs like job search support, training opportunities, and employer services, and talked about some of the workforce challenges we're seeing in Trinity County — especially around finding skilled workers, helping young adults with local work experience, and helping small businesses through our grant participants.

The group was engaged and supportive, and there was interest in finding ways to work together, especially to support local businesses through SMART programs. It was a good chance to strengthen connections with local leaders and raise awareness about how SMART can be a resource for the whole community.

Bart Fulfills Goal with County of Trinity Employment

Bart Entered the job center with a clear goal: to find full-time employment that offered stability and longevity for him and his family. Bart wanted to make a good impression and eagerly welcomed guidance on crafting a standout resume. Together, we refined his resume until it showcased his skills and experience, leaving Bart confident and proud of his application.

With his polished resume, Bart began applying for positions within the County of Trinity. His dedication paid off when he secured an interview with the Department of Solid Waste. To ensure he was fully prepared, Bart participated in a SMART mock interview, which gave him confidence and sharpened his interview skills.

Bart's efforts were rewarded when he was offered the position. Today, Bart is a full-time, benefited employee with the County of Trinity, thriving in his new role and looking forward to a promising future.

Myths, Mortals, and Making a Difference with the Redding Rancheria



The 2025 Redding Rancheria Community Fund Dinner once again brought together community leaders, businesses, and nonprofit organizations for an evening dedicated to giving back. As one of the most anticipated fundraising events in Northern California, the dinner celebrated the spirit of generosity and the impact of charitable giving.

Hosted by the Redding Rancheria, the event raised funds for local nonprofits that provide essential services in areas such as healthcare, education, and social welfare. SMART was proud to be in attendance as a Fire Level Sponsor. Attendees experienced an inspiring evening filled with heartfelt stories, special presentations, and a shared commitment to strengthening the community.

Since its inception, the Redding Rancheria Community Fund has awarded millions of dollars in grants to organizations making a difference in the region. The 2025 dinner continued this tradition, ensuring that vital programs received the support they needed to thrive. Through sponsorships and donations, businesses and individuals alike played a crucial role in funding initiatives that uplift those in need. The event not only highlighted the generosity of the Redding Rancheria but also reinforced the importance of collaboration in fostering a brighter future for the community.



SMART Professional Development:

- Best Practices: LMI & Occupational Data – NoRTEC
- North State Together Summit
- Shasta College Veterans Services
- Shasta College Contract and Community Education
- 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!



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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