

Spring jobs fair gives local workforce options

By Jake Abbott/jabbott@appealdemocrat.com | Posted: Thursday, April 13, 2017 5:17 pm

It's a good way, a workforce specialist said of Thursday's spring job fair, for workers to find out who is hiring and for employers to find out what workers are looking for.

About 250 people from Yuba-Sutter attended the job fair at the fairgrounds, where 62 employers were set up to review resumes and recruit potential employees.

Janet Fry, business workforce specialist with Sutter County One Stop, said the turnout was great, both from employers and potential employees. The largest groups of employers included resource agencies such as One Stop, and training and apprenticeships.

Fry said they recruit businesses in the area that are hiring and also reach out to new businesses, to see if they could benefit.

Representatives from S.T.E.P. (Strategies To Empower People) agreed the event was a success. S.T.E.P. provides support services for adults with developmental disabilities, teaching everyday life skills.

"We've gotten quite a few resumes today, but we always have success here at the job fair," said Tracy Cummins, representative for S.T.E.P.

Daniel Martinez, director and coordinator for the Northern California Plasterers' Apprenticeship, said opportunities like Thursday's job fair are a great way to recruit more students to the program.

Under the apprenticeship program, students attend classes throughout the week and apply what they've learned on weekend jobs.

"It's all about earning while you're learning with us," Martinez said. "Now that we are out of the recession, things have started to pick up. So the outlook for our profession looks good, we have a lot of work on the books."

Christina Mike, human resources coordinator with E Center in Yuba City, said job fairs give people an opportunity to learn more about the companies hiring, but it also provides a chance for people to get advice about how to optimize their job search.

"One thing I've seen with some resumes is that sometimes they are pretty sparse, because people don't always know how to best promote their strengths," Mike said. "It's hard to talk about yourself, but a mentor can help with the resume process."



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Maribel Medina, left, speaks with Sarah Nolan, recruitment coordinator for the Employment Development Department, during the spring job fair at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds on Thursday.

Expert: Quick resume tips

Robert Middleton, a veteran's services navigator with the Employment Development Department, attended Thursday's spring job fair and had one-on-one sit-downs with applicants to review, critique and give pointers on resumes.

Middleton works with veterans to help them find employment in the area. He said a solid resume is one of the most important aspects of a job search.

"Resume writing is difficult because trends are always changing," Middleton said. "There are a million ways to do it, but there are a few things that can be done to make you stand out to an employer."

In the past, someone writing a resume might have put an objective at the top of the document. More often than not, Middleton said, someone looking for a job might fill in that space with "to be employed." He said the "objective" format of the resume, unless required by the employer, isn't necessary.

He also said people tend to do small things like put their exact address at the top of the document, which employers don't need because typically that information is included in the application. Instead, he said just put the city and state you reside and leave the specific details for the application.

"Resumes typically only have about six seconds to impress an employer," Middleton said. "Employers look over the documents quickly, looking for key words. We try and help people find those key words, and then put them where an employer will see them to help the applicant stand out."

He said another area of improvement many applicants could benefit from is in making sure there is no open space on a resume and to highlight their individual strengths. Too often people short-change themselves by not going into specifics about their prior work experience, Middleton said.

"Resumes should show an employer what you can offer them," he said. "It's all about separating yourself from the rest."