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Medical job fair isn't just for specialists

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By Eve Hightower/Appeal-Democrat

Mid-Valley counties have some of the highest unemployment numbers in the state. They bring up the rear in income, too.

Outreach such as this week's job fair at the Sutter County One Stop, seeks to boost the area's income level.

- Mid-Valley counties averaged above the statewide unemployment average - 6.2 percent - in 2004, according to the Franchise Tax Board's most recently released report.
- Colusa County's 2004 unemployment rate was 13.4 percent.
- Sutter County had 10.5 percent unemployment.
- Yuba County's 2004 unemployment rate hit 9.7 percent.

Statewide, the median income on all tax returns in 2004 was \$33,223.

Out of 58 counties:

- Colusa ranked 56th with a median income of \$25,403.
- Butte ranked 44th with a median income of \$27,087.
- Yuba ranked 43rd with a median income of \$27,268.
- Sutter ranked 37th with a median income of \$29,369.

The Sutter County One Stop will host a job fair on Tuesday to help new graduates and others get good-paying, entry-level jobs, said Bobby Chima, One Stop business workforce specialist.

"It's a great way to get your foot in the door," she said.

Chima said about 25 people found jobs at the last medical job fair. "So there's opportunity for success."

Most recruiters will take applications at the fair, which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the One Stop center.

Twenty-one employers will recruit for a variety of positions including receptionists, nurses, phlebotomists and housekeepers, Chima said.

"They are medical employers, but they're hiring for jobs across the board," Chima said. "People think you have to have degrees or certificates to apply for these jobs - you don't. You just have to have the ability to learn, and they'll train you."

The fair is free and open to the public.

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