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Local job fair for health care

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By [Scott Bransford](#)/Appeal-Democrat

Jobs are readily available in the health-care industry, but landing work still isn't easy, according to Olivehurst resident Robin Shrader

Cold calls to employers and confusing online job applications are just two hurdles to finding a steady paycheck, said Shrader, a medical assistant who said she's been out of work since January.

On Tuesday, Shrader was able to forego some of the difficulties of her job search by attending Yuba City's second annual Medical Industry Job Fair.

The event, held at Yuba City's Veterans Hall, brought job seekers and employers from 27 health-care companies into one place.

"It is a lot less intimidating," Shrader said of the job fair's atmosphere. "A lot of the time you can't meet anybody because you have to apply online."

Organizers of the fair included the Sutter County One-Stop Career Center and the Sutter County Career Training and Education Center.

Bobbi Chima, a business and workforce specialist for CTEC and the Sutter County One-Stop, said Tuesday's attendance surpassed that of the previous year.

By 11:30 a.m., three hours before the fair concluded, 220 people had shown up. Last year, only 142 people attended, Chima said.

"It's been a great turnout," Chima said.

Company representatives at the fair said they were happy to find a large number of applicants for open positions.

Labor shortages are rife throughout the health-care industry, Chima said.

Job fairs are helpful to recruiters because they can meet applicants face-to-face before taking an in-depth look at their work history, said Gloria Fish, director of clinical services with the Peach Tree Clinic in Linda.

"I think it's truly helpful to meet the person and be able to get a feel for them before they apply online," Fish said.

Brian Miner, a human resource specialist with Chico's Enloe Medical Center, also said that the job fair helped recruiters connect with qualified job candidates who may be intimidated by required online applications.

"There are a lot of quality applicants that might not be as good with computers," Miner said. "We're happy to come out and recruit."

Chris Ciolino, 24, of Yuba City, said the job fair provided a good opportunity to find positions that aren't listed in newspapers and online.

"They don't always list all the positions they have available," Ciolino said.

Linda Lucero, director of staff development with Yuba City Care and Rehab, said the job fair provided a good gateway to jobs that provide steady income to people with limited resources.

Lucero said she worked her way out of financial problems by becoming a licensed vocational nurse. With jobs readily available at hospitals and other facilities, others can follow her path, she said.

"They can transition from (financial troubles) into being able to support themselves," Lucero said. "I've been there and I did it."

Appeal-Democrat reporter Scott Bransford can be reached at 749-4713. You may e-mail him at scott_bransford@link.freedom.com

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