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Inland Empire job seekers get help from Rancho Cucamonga church



Representatives from the California

Employment Development Department and the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department host a workshop lecture for job seekers at Cucamonga Christian Fellowship Church in Rancho Cucamonga on Wednesday. The workshop precedes a job fair at the church on April 2. Neil Nisperos — Staff

RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> Dozens of job seekers from the Inland Empire have been coming to a Rancho Cucamonga church in recent weeks for educational workshops leading up to a major job fair next week.

[Cucamonga Christian Fellowship Church](#) is hosting the events, coming off a successful job fair and workshop series last fall at its church building at 11376 5th St. The job fair takes place at the church on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“The idea of the job fair was let’s do something more than just praying,” said church pastor Dave Collins. “Let’s put feet to our prayers. So this last September, we ran our first one and we had over 600 people here and over 55 employers. It was a success.

We've gotten notes and e-mails back from people able to find work and positions, so it's really in our heart to give back to the community and be a blessing to the community."

In recent weeks, the church has held a resume workshop, a dress for success workshop, and on Wednesday, a workshop on learning to use the Internet, social media, and ways to find opportunities and labor markets.

Representatives from the California Economic Development Department and the Workforce Development Department of San Bernardino County hosted the Wednesday workshop in which people learned how to search for and prepare for jobs and job interviews.

"The key to really being prepared is to have a positive outlook on just everything," said Riccardo Canova, workforce development specialist for San Bernardino County. "Whether it be waking up in the morning with a purpose to find work, to prepare, research, and going out there and having a positive demeanor when looking for employment, meeting people, networking, and really just preparing yourself, like taking a class when you're unemployed, and really going to workshops and bettering yourself, whether it be for resumes and interviewing.

Canova said key employment sectors in the county today are warehousing and logistics, and in healthcare.

Job seekers were happy to take in all of the information to help them in their quest for employment.

"I guess one thing I hadn't thought about before, there were so many things covered, but I learned that not only should you use your time wisely, but to also think about what have you been doing with your time (during unemployment)," said job seeker Sandra Skorupski of Rancho Cucamonga.

"I realize I need to be able to answer that question, and I gave it some thought and I'm able to list all the different projects and things I've been able to work on. I feel glad they brought that up because now I don't have to stumble for words. I have a list I can fall back on."

Andrew Fuentes, a senior at Ontario High School, came with several of his classmates and a counselor. Fuentes, who hopes to find work as a radiology technician one day, said making connections was an important lesson from the event.

"I learned, to be honest, not to be shy, but to just go in and let people know you're looking for work," Fuentes said. "You want to be able to get to know people in order to make it in life. It's not just about what you know."

Fuentes came to event with 16 of his fellow schoolmates, along with Ontario High counselor Jeff Schultz, who is also a member of the church. Schultz said he plans on bringing a bus load of 50 students to the job fair at the church on Wednesday.

"Our goal is to hopefully get them some work right after or even during high school, but ... it is also pedagogical," Schultz said. "They are learning how to get a job."

Information and registration: www.ccflive.org

More information: www.edd.ca.gov

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