



NEWS RELEASE

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Innovative Job Training & Leadership Development Programs: New Cohorts Begin in January 2022

Wednesday, January 5, 2022, Salinas, CA – The Monterey County Workforce Development Board (MCWDB) is offering three new opportunities this month and invites local job seekers to register for the following programs:

Monterey County Wildfire Restoration Program – The Monterey County Wildfire Restoration Program provides the opportunity to be part of a select group working to restore the county and state parks in Monterey County damaged in the August 2020 wildfires. Participants learn to give back to their community while being paid and learning new skills. This is important work that makes a real difference! With National Dislocated Worker Grant disaster recovery funds from the Department of Labor, this program provides up to 20 weeks of paid work experience for individuals impacted by the wildfires and/or long-term unemployed. Participants earn \$17.50/hour and work up to 30 hours per week for 20 weeks between 7am and 6pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Eligibility includes those who are 18 years of age and over and have the right to work in the United States. Registration deadline is January 11.

Culinary Arts Program – In the Culinary Arts Program, participants develop the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level cook and pastry careers in just a few months with an accelerated program that culminates in earning two college level certificates: The Sustainable Culinary Arts Certificate of Achievement and The Baking and Pastry Arts Certificate of Achievement. They learn how to follow appropriate sanitation procedures and personal hygiene requirements to ensure food safety and how to apply culinary principles to a professional kitchen operation. This training program is offered in partnership with Monterey Peninsula College and will be taught by MPC faculty who have extensive experience in the hospitality industry. Classes are in person Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 2:30pm, from January 24 through July 27. Registration deadline is January 24.

Monterey Cadre Leadership program – The Monterey Cadre Leadership Program provides a unique opportunity to build leadership and advocacy skills for Monterey County’s young adults, ages 18 to 24. The purpose of the Cadre Program is to empower young adults to make an impact through local civic engagement and humanitarian efforts. Participants develop leadership skills, engage in community service experiences, gain work experience, complete a paid internship, and build connections with community leaders. Registration deadline is January 18 for the January 24 class.

“We invite local job seekers to check out all of our training opportunities through our career center,” said MCWDB Executive Director, Christopher Donnelly. “You could find a job that you didn’t know you’d love,” he said. Job seekers interested in participating in any of these programs are asked to call the Career Center at **1-866-666-9332** or visit the Monterey County Workforce Development Board website at <https://www.montereycountywdb.org/whats-new/> to learn more.