REASONS FOR STARTING A PLUS 50 ENCORE COMPLETION PROGRAM

Evaluation

- Are you interested in starting a Plus 50 program to bring older learners to campus? Here are the top ten things you should know before you get started!

- Is your community ready for a Plus 50 program? Resources and tools are available to help you take the first step and assess the interests of older learners in your local community.

- Why are community colleges ideal for plus 50 learners? They have so much to offer! Flexible scheduling, short-term education programs, and affordable options fit the lifestyles and needs of older adults.

- Resources are available for college practitioners to build support and implement strategies for their Plus 50 programs. Get started with these 12 tips!

Tools

- Worried about Plus 50 program funding? You aren’t the only one! Use AACC’s Plus 50 guide for developing winning grant applications to help you earn additional support.

- Evaluating your college’s readiness to implement a Plus 50 program is an important step. Whether you’re just starting out or expanding a program, the Jump Start Plus 50 self-assessment tool provides valuable ideas.

- Stay informed about the latest plus 50 news and research, discover what other colleges have done, find out about grant opportunities and more through the Plus 50 Newsletter. Sign up here!

- Plus 50 programs need support from internal and external stakeholders to be successful. Learn more about how you can engage and sustain stakeholder relationships.

Student Stories

- After being a stay-at-home mom for 25 years, Valerie Skurka-Mountjoy got the support she needed from Santa Fe College to pursue a teaching certificate. Read about her life-changing decision to help troubled youth.
• **Elizabeth Haddon** didn’t let lymphoma or lupus prevent her from pursuing a medical assistant’s certification. Her college’s Plus 50 program helped her fulfill her dream of working in health care with courses tailored to her needs.

• **Thomas Trego** found that planning a second career at age 50 was easier than ever. Learn how Cape Cod Community College’s Plus 50 program helped him pursue a second career as a nurse.

• Earning a degree at community college helped **Zephia Reese** turn her lifelong love for literature into a teaching certificate and new career opportunities.

**Research/College Profiles**

• Plus 50 adults make up one of the largest groups returning to school, and community colleges are in a unique position to serve them. [Read more](#) about the importance of degree and certificate completion for plus 50 learners.

• Learn about the [diverse Plus 50 programs](#) at community colleges that give plus 50 learners the skills they need for the job market and new careers.

• AACC shows how community colleges can be even more vital within the community, matching older students’ retraining needs with job opportunities. Use this [toolkit](#) for building partnerships with your local business community.

**Publications**

• Read about [what’s drawing plus 50 students](#) to community colleges along with tips on how to effectively serve them.

• AACC has outlined [essential core elements](#) that are necessary for a Plus 50 program to succeed. See these guidelines for starting a Plus 50 program on your campus.

• Need tips for structuring education programs for plus 50 learners? Click on the links to the left to find examples from community colleges around the country on putting the essential core elements into practice:

• Read about the lasting [impact of the Plus 50 Initiative](#) on sustainable programming and community partnerships at community colleges all over the country.