What's New

Grants Available For Colleges Helping Adult Learners Complete
AACC, with funding from Lumina Foundation for Education, will be announcing a national competition for community colleges to participate in the AACC Plus 50 Completion Strategy. Eleven community colleges will join in increasing the number of plus 50 adults, particularly those with some prior college credit, earn credentials. AACC is seeking colleges that will help plus 50 students complete workforce training and retraining credentials in high-demand, high-growth fields to enhance their employment opportunities and meet local labor market needs. Information about the Plus 50 Completion Strategy RFP will be posted on AACC’s homepage in the near future. The application deadline is March 4, 2011.

Save the Date: Free Webinar From the Urban Institute
The Urban Institute will offer a free webinar on January 25, 2011, titled “Young and Older Workers: (Not) Entering and Exiting the Labor Market.” Watch this e-newsletter for RSVP information. This webinar is part of a series of three solution-focused policy forums that will examine strategies for job creation, labor market roadblocks for young workers and retirement barriers for older workers, and revamping the safety net so that it works during high, persistent unemployment.

Steal Our Copy For Your Plus 50 Newsletters
Looking for a few article ideas for your plus 50 program e-newsletter or print newsletter? Use the copy on AACC’s Plus 50 website. Here are some examples:
• Practical Tips Students — Helpful advice for plus 50 adults heading back to school.
• Financial Aid Resources for Plus 50 Adults — This list of potential financial aid sources for plus 50 adults can help anyone who is exploring going back to school. Add information about college or state resources to localize the article to your college.
• Nutrition Assistance Programs for Older Adults — This fact sheet from the Urban Institute explains the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Combined with area Meals on Wheels information, this could become an interesting article about resources available in your local community to assist low-income adults.
• Career Video Challenge for America’s Job Seekers — This fun contest by the U.S. Department of Labor highlights 15 occupation categories and is a great way to learn about available jobs and to hear the real voices of the people doing them. Viewers are encouraged to vote by December 31, 2010, for their favorite videos.
In the News

Plus 50 in the News

• “Plus 50 at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College,” Over 50 and Out of Work [Blog], November 16, 2010
• “Grants Awarded to MCC,” The MCC Insider, November 11, 2010
• “New Office at Cape Cod Community College Opened for Adult Learner Services,” Cape Cod Today, November 9, 2010
• “Boomers Rework Retirement and Start Businesses,” Examiner.com St. Louis, November 8, 2010
• “What Are You Doing With the Rest of Your Life?” Examiner.com St. Louis, November 6, 2010

Student Story

Winemaking Course Enhances Boomer's Life

In this YouTube video, Scott Scheirman, a student at Clark College, says lifelong learning is what it's all about: "All the time, every second of the day, you are learning." He has enjoyed his courses and the classroom environment. "There's something about learning in the presence of others, it's a magical experience," he says. He took a course called "From the Vineyard to the Bottle" and is now taking a course in wine chemistry. He encourages other plus 50 adults to "jump in, just try it."

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

“In a Class by Itself: Memoirs”

LLI Review: The Annual Journal of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute contains resources to help colleges conducting programs with plus 50 adults, but this article on page 58 about a memoir writing class really caught our attention. It describes the 22-year history of this class, and how it has encouraged students to write thoughtfully and to listen to each other. Through narrative exchanges, the people in the class achieve an understanding of the impact of life-altering events. "Without this class, moments in my life would have been lost," says one student interviewed for the article. If your college is considering starting a memoir writing class, be sure to consult this article.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

“The New Unemployables”: Older Job Seekers Struggle to Find Work During the Great Recession

Published by the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College, this study reveals that among job seekers unemployed during the recent recession, adults aged 55+ are finding it increasingly difficult to land a job and are more likely to remain out of work longer than younger job seekers. The findings are based on a national random sample of over 900 unemployed Americans surveyed in August 2009 and on follow-up interviews in March 2010. The study notes, “Very few of the older respondents in the survey (12%) had taken education or training courses, compared to 20% of younger workers. Given that older workers may be more likely to have been laid off from industries suffering permanent
structural declines, and may not have skills that readily translate to currently available jobs, they are more likely to need longer-term training and education programs than younger workers, particularly in the increasingly knowledge-based economy."

**VOLUNTEERING and SERVICE**  
*Family Matters: Public Policy and the Interdependence of Generations*  
This recent study by Generations United with Harris Interactive, discusses ways to build multigenerational linkages through shared spaces, services, and volunteering opportunities. Community college programs that are pairing up plus 50 adults with younger students from an earlier generation, or conducting volunteering and service programs with a plus 50 audience, may find this publication particularly helpful.

**Happy Holidays!**  
The next Ageless Learning e-newsletter will be published January 7, 2011.

The American Association of Community Colleges is a national association representing close to 1,200 community, junior and technical colleges nationwide. Community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education, serving close to 12 million students each year. AACC is headquartered in Washington, D.C. See [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu).

The Atlantic Philanthropies are dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Atlantic focuses on four critical social problems: ageing, disadvantaged children & youth, population health, and reconciliation & human rights. Programs funded by Atlantic operate in Australia, Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States and Viet Nam. To learn more, please visit [www.atlanticphilanthropies.org](http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org).

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