AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Community College Program for Students Over 50,” Next Avenue, August 8, 2012
- “Westchester Community College…Not Just for Young Adults Anymore,” SUNY (The State University of New York), July 20, 2012

New Community Colleges Join AACC’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Program

Eleven colleges have been chosen to join AACC’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Program designed to train 10,000 baby boomers over the next three years for new jobs in healthcare, education and social service. The program will ultimately comprise 100 colleges with special training programs for students age 50 and over. The selected colleges are: Arapahoe Community College (CO), Black River Technical College (AR), Broome Community College (NY), John Wood Community College (IL), Lansing Community College (MI), Owens State Community College (OH), Pitt Community College (NC), San Jacinto Community College District (TX), Southside Virginia Community College (VA), Waubonsee Community College (IL) and West Virginia University at Parkersburg (WV). In addition to grant funds to augment training programs, the participating colleges gain access to toolkits and extensive marketing resources that will make the work of reaching out to students age 50 and over effective and targeted. The program expects to add an additional 89 colleges in 2012 and early 2013. Grant funding applications AACC member colleges are available online. Proposals will be accepted between September 10 and October 26, 2012, and between January 2 and February 15, 2013.

Senior Corps Opens RSVP Grant Competition

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) opened the 2013 RSVP grant competition with a draft notice of fund availability, giving applicants time to review grant requirements and consider applying. This Senior Corps RSVP draft notice will focus grant making for fiscal year 2013 in six focus areas: education, healthy futures, veterans and military families, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, and disaster services. CNCS seeks to fund programs that can demonstrate community impact and solve community problems through National Performance Measures in the listed focus areas. In this competition CNCS intends to fund RSVP projects that support volunteers 55 years and older serving in a diverse range of activities that meet specific local and community needs and respond to National Performance Measures. Read more information on this blog post. If you intend to apply, you should submit a Notice of Intent to Apply via email by September 10, 2012. Applications are due October 11, 2012.

Plus-50 Voters Stressed About Finances & Jobs, Reports AARP Survey

A recent AARP survey of baby boomer voters revealed that they are anxious about the future. Their concerns are reflected in an "Anxiety Index," which measures their worries on issues including prices rising faster than incomes (75% worry somewhat or very often about this), health expenses (62%), not having financial security in retirement (73%) and paying too much in taxes (71%). By comparison, 32% of these boomer voters regularly worry about being able to find a full-time job with benefits or keep up with their mortgage or rent (30%), issues that are more widely
discussed as leading economic issues for voters in the coming election. Non-retired boomer voters are pessimistic about retirement. Almost three-in-four (72%) believe they will have to delay retirement, and 65% worry they won't have enough to retire. Half of these voters don't think they'll ever be able to retire. They overwhelmingly (59%) believe the recent economic downturn will force them to rely more on Social Security and Medicare. Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) retired plus-50 voters worry about prices rising faster than their incomes, and 48% worry about having unaffordable health expenses, despite the relative security provided by Medicare. Only 42% African-American plus 50 voters are confident that they will have enough money to live comfortably throughout their retirement. Hispanic plus-50 voters overwhelmingly say that the recent economic downturn negatively impacted their personal circumstances (84%) and will force them to rely more on Social Security and Medicare (69%).

Mark Your Calendars: #Plus50 Twitter Chat Scheduled for September 12
Join us from the comfort of your office desktop computer, your smartphone, or wherever you happen to tweet from, for the #Plus50 Twitter chat on Tuesday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m. (ET). We will be tweeting on hashtag #Plus50 and taking your questions and comments about supporting students who are age 50 and over on campus at community colleges. As part of our hour long chat, we’ll also be offering tips for those who want to apply for the next round of grant funding. You will need a Twitter account to participate. An easy Web application to use to help you follow the chat on hashtag #Plus50 is TweetChat or you can add the hashtag as a stream in Hootsuite software. Join us September 12 for a great hour of conversation and sharing.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Business at the Table: The Employer Drive for Higher Education Attainment
This 2012 report by Partners for Liveable Communities features case studies showing communities working together to close the college attainment gap and grow an educated workforce. The authors explore the challenges and successes of local, regional, and national education reform initiatives. The report highlights lessons for Chamber of Commerce and business leaders seeking to make progress toward the 2025 goal with 60% of Americans having valuable degrees and credentials. This compendium of case studies provides business and chamber of commerce leaders the perspective to further their conversation. Included are programs led by chambers of commerce, 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities, and national and local higher education achievement programs. Interviews were conducted with the CEO or director of each program, providing personal accounts of trials and victories on the road to success. The research was funded by Lumina Foundation and the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

LEARNING

The Learning That Maturity Brings: An Analysis of the Value of Prior Learning Assessment for Mature Learners
This Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL) research brief presents data from CAEL’s 2010 “Fueling the Race to Postsecondary Success” report on the experience of mature learners with prior learning assessment (PLA) credit. Published in February 2012, the data show that mature learners with credit earned through PLA excel. Compared to younger students with PLA credit, mature learners with PLA credit earn a higher average number of credits through PLA, have higher graduation rates, and spend less time earning a degree. The data also show that when students ages 55–64 have access to PLA, they earn PLA credit in similar proportions to younger students. Given the PLA outcomes for mature learners, organizations focused on helping mature learners and mature workers might consider how PLA can be a strategy to help people age 55 and over achieve their education and training goals.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Healthcare Jobs Growing
The number of healthcare jobs will grow by as much as 30% by the year 2020 – and the workers filling these jobs will need postsecondary education credentials. Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce’s 2012 report Healthcare says 5.6 million new jobs in the healthcare sector will be created over the next eight years. That includes all sorts of healthcare-related jobs—many of which require no more than an associate degree—such as medical technicians, pharmaceutical sales representatives, and doctor’s office assistants. Thirteen percent of all jobs will be in the health sector in 2020. At the same time, the report finds, the demand for postsecondary
education in healthcare will grow faster than any other field except the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and education fields. Eighty-two percent of those 5.6 million new healthcare jobs will require postsecondary education and training—and an increasing number of jobs will require at least an associate degree. While 21% of all healthcare jobs required an associate degree in 2010, that will rise to 25% by 2020.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

Giving Time Can Give You Time

A new study in *Psychological Science* suggests that volunteering may actually increase our sense of unhurried leisure. Across four different experiments, researchers at the Yale School of Management and Michael Norton of Harvard Business School found that people’s subjective sense of having time, called ‘time affluence,’ can be increased, compared with wasting time, spending time on oneself, and even gaining a windfall of ‘free’ time. Spending time on others increased participants’ feelings of time affluence. Ultimately, giving time makes people more willing to commit to future engagements despite their busy schedules.