AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- "Back to School: What You Must Think About Before Furthering Your Education After 50," The Huffington Post, August 17, 2012
- "Owens Job Training Targets Boomers," Toledo Blade, August 17, 2012
- "Owens Community College Joins National Program to Train 10,000 Older Workers for New Job Opportunities," Owens Community College (press release), August 17, 2012
- "Plus 50 Encore Completion Program," Arapahoe Community College (press release), August 17, 2012
- "AACC Kicks Off Next Stage of Plus 50 Initiative," Community College Times, August 14, 2012
- "Eleven Community Colleges Join Program to Train 10,000 Older Workers for New Jobs," Recruiting Trends, August 14, 2012
- "Westchester Community College’s New Credit Initiative for Mature Adults Who Seek to Study with Their Peers," Westchester Community College (press release), August 14, 2012

New Community Colleges Join AACC’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, Will Your College Be in Our Next Announcement for New Colleges?

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 over 50 years of age. 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 for AACC member colleges are available now. Proposals will be accepted between September 10 and October 26, 2012, and between January 2 and February 15, 2013.
Mark Your Calendars: #Plus50 Twitter Chat Scheduled for September 12
Join us from the comfort of your office 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.

Completion Strategy Spotlight: Ohio Community Colleges Award Degrees to Students Who Transferred
A recent article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer highlighted Ohio area community colleges awarding degrees to students who transferred to 4-year institutions before graduating. While many 4-year institutions have systems in place to identify community college courses that qualify for credit, 2-year colleges often don’t have that infrastructure in place for evaluating coursework at 4-year institutions. At a state-level, the colleges have been aided by the Ohio Transfer Module established six years ago, which identifies the courses at every public 2– and 4-year college that meet general education requirements. Cuyahoga Community College and Lorain County Community College are profiled in the article.

Getting People Trained for the Jobs That Need Workers: The Career Pathways Model
California community colleges have formed a consortium to create a pipeline of trained workers for waiting jobs that are hard to fill. As part of the process, they are restructuring entire curricula with the help of local businesses, and wrapping support services like tutors around technical classes to make sure students avoid remedial instruction whenever possible. Eleven central California community colleges belong to the C6 Consortium, which received a $20 million federal Trade Adjustment Assistance grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. They've learned a lot along the way. "Oftentimes education is fragmented—we have student support services going on on one side of the campus and academic buildings on the other side," said Carole Goldsmith, vice chancellor of educational services and workforce development for West Hills Community College, in an interview with The Huffington Post. Critics of public–private partnerships often worry that corporations will wind up calling the shots. Goldsmith was quick to say, "We're not simply training people for an employer—that's a mistake." But the way many community colleges have traditionally worked, Goldsmith said, is broken. Students pick and choose courses without ever talking to a counselor, and are never given an opportunity to consider whether they actually want a bachelor's degree. In place of that sometimes chaotic system, she said, Career Pathways turns the college into a "drill sergeant. We're going to advise the student on that process." Read more in The Huffington Post.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Strategies for Success: Promising Ideas in Adult College Completion
This new publication by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education is the first of a new Policy Exchanges series focusing on promising new ideas and innovative practices developed through the Adult College Completion Network. The brief addresses five topics of importance to those working to improve adult college completion: (1) data availability particular to the returning adult population, (2) partnerships between employers and higher education institutions, (3) communications and marketing campaigns to reach and reengage adults with prior college credit, (4) transfer credits, and (5) prior learning assessment.

LEARNING

Structuring Your Admissions Team to Serve Adult Education: An In-Depth Look at Admissions Best Practices and Evaluating ROI
This white paper by PlattForm Higher Education asserts that the success or failure of adult education and distance learning programs depends largely on the structure of its admissions team. The paper explores your institution's admissions structure, how to best build your team and evaluate its effectiveness. Highlights of the paper include explaining why your admissions structure must be different in your adult education division; how you can modify your admissions team to best meet the needs of adult and distance learners; and how to measure return on investment on the micro level.
TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

New Approaches for Supporting the Mature Worker: The Experiences of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Aging Workforce Initiative Grantees

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded 10 demonstration grants to workforce agencies to provide employment training and related services for workers age 55 and older. This paper from the Council for Adult & Experiential Learning describes the sites and their approaches to supporting the employment and career advancement needs of mature workers. These approaches include expanding the capacity of publicly funded Workforce Investment Boards to serve mature workers, creating models for training and skill development, and developing employer engagement strategies. The grantee sites also developed in-depth knowledge about the needs of mature workers and specific policy responses that can support mature workers in their continued labor force participation. The paper concludes with lessons and policy recommendations that emerged from these on-the-ground experiences. The 10 participating sites were: Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc. (IN), Quad Area Community Action Agency, Inc. (LA), Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. (ME), Baltimore County Office of Workforce Development (MD), Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board, Inc. (MI), South Central Workforce Investment Board (PA), Goodwill Industries of Houston, Inc. (TX), Vermont Associates for Training and Development, Inc. (VT), Seattle-King County Workforce Development Council (WA), and Fox Valley Workforce Development Board (WI).

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

A Program Explores New Roles for Mature Adults in Public School Classrooms

This paper from the Council for Adult & Experiential Learning describes the Mentors 4 STEM program, a pilot project to link volunteers age 55 and over with professional backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) to collaborate with high school math and science teachers and work with their students. The project was piloted in New Jersey and Philadelphia public high schools. Volunteer recruitment, program organization, school system buy-in, teacher feedback, and other topics are discussed.