**AGELESS LEARNING**

**In the News**

Plus 50 in the News

- “San Jacinto Joins Program to Train Baby Boomers for College,” San Jacinto College (press release), September 27, 2012
- “Grant Awarded to Aid Student Baby Boomers,” Parkersburg News & Sentinel, September 17, 2012

**AACC Plus 50 Encore Completion Grant Program is Accepting Applications**
AACC is offering grants to member community colleges to start a Plus 50 Encore Completion program on their campus. Applications are online. The goal of the program is to help 10,000 students age 50 and over earn certificates or degrees in the high-demand fields of healthcare, education, and social services enabling them to increase their employment competitiveness while improving their communities. This competitive grant program will enable more colleges to provide supports for students over 50 to succeed. Apply by October 26, 2012, or wait for our next application window opening in January and apply by February 15, 2013.

**AACC’s Plus 50 Completion Strategy Reaches Completion Goal Two Years Early**
The Plus 50 Completion Strategy has reached its goals two years ahead of schedule and is revving up to assist more people. Approximately 9,292 student baby boomers were assisted in the last two years by the 18 colleges participating in the project. Forty-six percent of those students completed degrees or certificates over the last two years. Organizers at AACC were thrilled to see the program reach its four-year goals two years ahead of schedule. “We are delighted to see the colleges assisting so many adults age 50 and over who are going back to college to re-train for new jobs and re-invent their careers,” said Mary Sue Vickers, director of the program at AACC. Vickers and the college staff are not planning to rest on their laurels. Rather, they’re planning to assist even more people over the next two years. When asked how the 18 colleges involved in the program could be so successful, evaluators point to a number of factors in a newly-issued report, available on AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative website.

**J. Jill Compassion Fund to Announce 2013 Application Requirements in October**
College staff seeking grant support for programs serving baby boomer women will want to make a note on their calendars to check the website in October for the J. Jill Compassion Fund. The fund supports job training, education, and transitional housing for women in need by providing donations directly to organizations with existing programs. General operating support will be awarded to organizations that break down barriers for women in need to achieve and sustain self-sufficiency. Eligible organizations must be serving women in need at a local or national level, have a
connection with a local J. Jill store, and be registered as a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

**Federal Grant: RSVP Program Extends Submission Deadline to October 18**

The final federal grant program notice for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has been posted online and the program application date has been extended to October 18, 2012. Colleges seeking to apply for funds should consult the federal notice online and review the supporting materials available. Some of the colleges involved with the Plus 50 program over the last four years have been RSVP grantees.

**Upcoming Free Webinars: RSVP Program Management, Volunteer Support and More**

The Volunteer Collaborative will host a series of upcoming webinars over the next few months. Upcoming topics include recruiting baby boomers as volunteers in caregiving roles (October 13), the Senior Medicare Patrol Program (October 11), integrating volunteer programs (October 18), and RSVP program management (November 13). All webinars are offered between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. (ET) and require registration.

**Webinar Explores Building Strong Employer Involvement in Sector Partnerships**

A free October 4 webinar (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. PT) will examine how to build strong employer involvement in industry sector-focused workforce partnerships or sector initiatives. Jack Mills, director of the National Network of Sector Partners, will present a framework for building employer involvement, along with examples of sector initiatives from around the country who involve employers in innovative and exemplary ways. Janice Sneed, vice chancellor for Community and Workforce Development at Southern University at Shreveport, will share the structure and practices her healthcare sector initiative uses to involve employers in development, design, delivery, and decision-making about programs. The organizers promise that there will be plenty of room for questions and comments throughout. This webinar is offered at no cost to attendees through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. This webinar will be relevant to all workforce development leaders and practitioners looking to increase the effectiveness of their initiatives. Registration required.

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**

**COMPLETION**

*Overview of State Policies on Lower-Division Education Core in WICHE States*

Published in August 2012 by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE), this research brief provides an overview of the current policies around the lower-division general education core in and presents the general education credits required in each state. Of the 15 WICHE states, 11 have a statewide general education core: Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai’i, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington. Four states – Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, and Wyoming – do not have a statewide general education core. Why does it matter? It matters because when students seek to transfer between states and institutions, they often cannot “take” postsecondary credits they have already earned with them. While most states have implemented intrastate policies aimed at streamlining pathways to graduation, these policies do not affect interstate transfer students. This research report was compiled as part of the Interstate Passport Initiative.

**LEARNING**

*Courses to Employment: Partnering to Create Paths to Education and Careers*

This report from the Workforce Strategies Initiative at the Aspen Institute examines research from the Courses to Employment project, which studied how six community college nonprofit partnerships work together to help low-income adults succeed in the classroom and the labor market. The report provides an overview of the approach and strategies these partnerships use, how these partnerships are structured, and what factors influence how these partnerships are structured. It also describes the education and employment outcomes participating students achieved during the Courses to Employment project. This publication is geared towards policymakers and investors who are interested in supporting models that increase the success rates of adults in community college and to workforce development leaders who are interested in
building or sustaining collaborative efforts to support workers in their labor markets as well as learning about innovative approaches to curricula, training and instruction, employer engagement strategies, and support services.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

**When Baby Boomers Delay Retirement, Do Younger Workers Suffer?**
In this research report by the Pew Center for the States, researchers ask the question, “Has extended baby boomer employment negatively affected the labor force activity of the young during the Great Recession?” The notion that younger and older workers are engaged in a zero-sum game for a fixed number of jobs is called the “lump-of-labor” theory. This issue brief explores whether this theory has held true. The researchers conclude that the lump-of-labor theory did not hold true during the Great Recession: there is no evidence that employment by baby boomers negatively impacted the labor force activity of younger workers. Just as during the Great Recession, over the last several decades, an increase in older workers’ employment has been associated with an increase in younger workers’ employment rate and hours worked, say researchers. Older workers’ employment has no negative impact on the hourly wages or annual incomes of youth. Understanding these labor market dynamics is crucial for understanding a full picture of how to support upward economic mobility for youth and prevent downward economic mobility for older workers.

**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**

“Ten Baby Boomer Volunteer Opportunities”
This article on How Stuff Works profiles 10 volunteer opportunities for plus 50 adults seeking to give back to the community. Opportunities include school volunteering, being a business mentor, assisting a nonprofit with fundraising, and serving as a Peace Corps volunteer overseas.