AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

“Can Classes Give Older Workers an Edge?” MarketWatch (Wall Street Journal), October 8, 2012

“SRC Offers Conferences for Those Plus 50,” Canton Daily Ledger, October 1, 2012

“Plus 50 Campaign Reaches Its Goals Two Years Early,” In the Spotlight (blog), September 30, 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. Submit your application now. 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 until January 2 for our next application window and apply by February 15, 2013.

Securing Grant Funding for Your College’s Plus 50 Program
Many mistakenly assume the first step to creating a new program helping students age 50 and over is obtaining external funding. All funders—whether government agencies, foundations, or corporations—award grants based on a thoughtful and well-researched presentation of needs, strategies, and goals that align with their own missions. That means colleges need to do their homework and build the alliances that will give funders assurance that their program will be a sound and sustainable investment. You may already have students age 50 and over on campus, who are accessing services at your college. You just need to look at what is already in place, and then design a program that meets their needs. You don’t have to struggle to assemble a winning grant proposal—we’ve put together a sample.

Special Focus: Employer Tuition Assistance Programs
Invest2Compete: An Analysis of Employer-Funded Tuition Assistance Programs in the Greater Washington Region found that 95 employers of varying sizes in the Washington, DC, area had invested $6 million in tuition assistance programs benefiting 8,200 employees. Many felt that the company’s tuition assistance program helped recruit and retain talented employees. Nearly a quarter of the firms surveyed had expanded their tuition assistance programs during the recession.
"The Value of Tuition Assistance is Not Just Financial, Say Working Learners"
In this research summary published by the League for Innovation in the Community College. Surveyed employees benefiting from tuition assistance programs said that they not only enjoyed a cost-savings, but that the programs helped them avoid incurring debt and grow professionally. The authors note: "Workers’ high esteem for tuition assistance suggests that there may be an opportunity for employers to position their tuition-benefit programs as a strategic tool, not simply an optional benefit. After they identify knowledge gaps in their workforce, business leaders can find ways to structure tuition-assistance programs to meet their company’s education and training needs, possibly working in partnership with local community colleges.”

In an essay for Inc., the authors explore tuition assistance programs* and offer several tips to help employers control cost and implement programs successfully. Employers can save money on tuition assistance programs by helping employees receive college credit for skills and knowledge they may already possess. They can also work with colleges to offer non-traditional courses, or work with a college to set up a course for a group of employees needing additional training. The authors note that while some view tuition assistance programs as expensive recruitment tools, they often nurture employee loyalty.

Free October 17 Webinar: DegreeNow—Serving West Virginia’s Adult Learners
This American Council on Education and West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission webinar on October 17, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. (ET) will present information on West Virginia’s statewide adult degree completion initiative that integrates the West Virginia Board of Governors A.A.S. Adult Degree Completion Program, the Regents Transfer Agreement, and the Regents Bachelor of Arts program. Of special interest is the comprehensive application of credit for prior learning. Register now.

Free October 18 Webinar: Boomers—What Will Their Legacy Be?
An American Society of Aging webinar on October 18, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. (ET) explores the legacy that will be left by America’s baby boomers. Will Boomers go down in history with multiple legacies, a singular legacy, or will there be no legacy at all? Participants will hear from a historian, a futurist, and a gerontologist. This event offers continuing education credit for those who complete a survey. You can register online to attend. The society is also offering a webinar on assisting seniors with finances on October 17.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Remediation: Higher Education’s Bridge to Nowhere
More than 50% of students entering 2-year colleges and nearly 20% of those entering 4-year universities are placed in remedial classes, says this 2012 report by Complete College America. Frustrated about their placement into remediation, thousands who were accepted into college never show up for classes. The report’s authors say remediation has become higher education’s "Bridge to Nowhere." This broken remedial bridge is traveled by some 1.7 million beginning students each year. Many of them will never graduate. State specific data about math and English remediation for 2- and 4-year colleges are included. Recommendations for improving student success and completion rates are offered.

LEARNING

Program Adaptations for Plus 50 Encore Learners—Audio Seminar
This audio seminar provides tips to help community college administrators adapt programs to the unique needs of plus 50 students interested in encore careers. In this seminar, two community college administrators share their experiences creating programs that successfully train plus 50 learners and place them in jobs. Links to a tip sheet and resources are provided.
TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Reemployment Strategies
This website, published by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Workforce 3 One initiative, curates a variety of materials to help programs assisting workers seeking reemployment after losing their jobs. The site includes a large repository of resources, as well as grant and webinar announcements. If you have a Workforce 3 One account, you can join the community and share information about your programs.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

2010 Civic Health Assessment: Executive Summary
Even in tough economic times, Americans are solving problems in their own communities, say researchers conducting A Civic Nation: Executive Summary of America’s First Civic Health Assessment. The National Conference on Citizenship’s research indicates the Internet is helping to advance civic participation in America. Creating community impact doesn't happen in a vacuum—it's part of a reinforcing cycle. People who are involved in one area of community activity are more likely to be involved in others.