AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “ECC Uses Grant to Help Baby Boomer Students,” *The Chicago Tribune*, December 31, 2012


- “NWCCD Awarded Grant to Train Employees Over 50,” *The Sheridan Press*, December 20, 2012

Plus 50 Grant Applications Being Accepted Through Feb.15
Do you know a community college that would benefit from improving its programs and resources for plus 50 students? Then suggest they apply to be part of AACC’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Program. The goal of AACC’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Program is to help 10,000 students age 50 and over earn certificates or degrees in the high-demand fields of health care, education, and social services, enabling them to increase their employment competitiveness while improving their communities. The next round of grant applications is being accepted through February 15, 2013. You can get more information and submit your application online.
“Aging America: The Cities That Are Graying the Fastest”
Today roughly 18.5% of the U.S. population is over 60, compared to 16.3% a decade ago; by 2020 that percentage is expected to rise to 22.2%, and by 2050 to a full 25%. Yet the graying of America is not uniform—some places are considerably older than others. The oldest metropolitan areas, according to an analysis of the 2010 census by demographer Wendell Cox, have twice as high a concentration of residents over the age of 60 as the youngest. For the most part, the oldest metropolitan areas—with the exception of longtime Florida retirement havens Tampa-St. Petersburg and Miami—tend to be clustered in the old industrial regions of the country. The oldest city in America is Pittsburgh, where 23.6% of the metro area’s population is over 60 (see the full list in the table below). The old steel capital is followed by such former robust manufacturing hubs as Buffalo (No. 3 on our list), Cleveland (fifth), and Detroit (ninth). How did these places get so old? The biggest factor: migration deficits. You can read more in this New Geography article.

O*NET Career Exploration Tools Offer Jobseekers Direction
This U.S. Department of Labor website offers a helpful set of self-directed career exploration and assessment tools. These assessments and tools can help workers consider and plan career options, preparation, and transitions more effectively. They are also designed for use by students who are exploring the school-to-work transition. These instruments can help users identify their work-related interests, what they consider important on the job, and their abilities in order to explore those occupations that relate most closely to those attributes. Users may link to the more than 800 occupations described by the O*NET database, as well as to occupational information in CareerOneStop. This allows individuals to make a seamless transition from assessing their interests, work values, and abilities to matching their job skills with the requirements of occupations in their local labor market.

“The 10 Best-Paying Jobs for Community College Graduates”
This Forbes article outlines the top-paying careers for community college graduates. Not surprisingly, health-care jobs were a big part of the list, with careers as registered nurses, diagnostic medical sonographers, nuclear medicine technologists, radiation therapists, and dental hygienists identified as offering some of the biggest paychecks.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program
COMPLETION

Boosting College Completion for a New Economy
The Boosting College Completion website is part of a 2-year initiative recently conducted by the Education Commission of the States designed to move states from awareness of their college completion challenge to the development, implementation, and evaluation of state strategies that increase college attainment rates. The site includes profiles for several states, a searchable database of policy strategies, and resources to help policymakers craft policies that undergird higher education completion efforts.

LEARNING

“Older People Become What They Think, Study Shows”
Attitude is key to healthy aging. Research summarized in this article by the New York Times shows that as adults age, their stereotypes about aging influence how they will cope with growing older. Decades of research by a Yale University professor demonstrated interesting results about how attitude impacts how people live their lives. The researcher found that those with positive aging stereotypes lived seven-and-a-half years longer than those with negative aging stereotypes. People with positive age stereotypes were more likely to eat a balanced diet, exercise, limit their alcohol consumption, stop smoking and get regular physical exams, and had a higher level of physical functioning over time.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Jobs to Careers: Work-Based Learning Toolkit
This toolkit by Jobs for the Future is a step-by-step guide to designing and implementing employee learning and career advancement projects for frontline workers. The toolkit is drawn from the practice of Jobs to Careers, a national program to promote quality in health care through work-based learning for frontline employees. The toolkit is a guidebook for job-site practitioners of workforce development: human resources managers, staff developers, and others responsible for employee learning through union-based programs, community colleges, technical schools, and community-based organizations. The toolkit is organized to serve newcomers to work-based learning and those with prior experience who are seeking to learn more. It is also a resource for those seeking effective models on specific topics, such as designing curricula based on work objectives or training supervisors to coach or mentor frontline workers. The tools, resources, and examples were developed by practitioners, in health care workplaces or educational institutions, and by technical assistance and documentation specialists working closely with the practitioners. These resources and examples originate in health care, yet they are readily adaptable to other work settings and occupations.
VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

Experience Corps
The AARP Experience Corps engages older adult tutors to improve K-3 student literacy in disadvantaged schools. Volunteers can sign up to assist K-3 student literacy projects in 20 cities. Researchers at the Center for American Progress said, "Experience Corps makes a significant difference building a positive environment for learning, helps students achieve" and serves as "a cost-effective way to improve the quality of education and supplement overworked teachers."