AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

“Tri-County Receives Grant to Train Baby Boomers for New Career,” Anderson Independent Mail, February 27, 2013

“Tri-County Technical College Receives Grant to Train Baby Boomers for New Career,” Easley Patch, February 21, 2013


Free March 6 Webinar on the Federal Policy & Legislative Landscape and What it Means for Adult College Completion
The Adult College Completion Network will host a free webinar March 6, 2013, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (ET). The title of the webinar is The Federal Policy and Legislative Landscape: What Does it Mean for Adult College Completion? Changes in federal policy and legislation potentially could lead to great changes in the landscape surrounding adult credential completion efforts. With potential changes looming in financial aid programs and several regulatory actions that could impact efforts to reengage adults with prior college credit, this webinar will examine some of the possible ramifications. Registration is available online.
Community College Webinar Series Kicks Off March 7 with Focus on Adult Education
A new, free webinar series featuring the work of community colleges kicks off March 7 at 1:00 p.m. (ET), with a session on transforming adult education to help adults transition into college. The discussion during next week’s webinar will focus on the Accelerating Opportunity initiative, findings from a study on transforming reading instruction for adult learners, and the work of LaGuardia Community College in developing bridge programs. The webinar series will discuss key challenges facing 2-year colleges and highlight promising practices and policies focused on increasing student success. Upcoming webinars this spring will focus on promising community college correctional and reentry education work, the strengths and challenges of the U.S. postsecondary career and technical education system, and the role of community colleges in career pathways systems. The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education will host the series in collaboration with AACC and the Association of Community College Trustees. Register online for the March 7 webinar.

Student Story: Going to School is a Sharp Turn, But Learning is for Life
In this YouTube video, Plus 50 student Juanita Blackshear discusses why she likes attending St. Louis Community College. She likes the approachability of the instructors, who are willing to talk with students and help them when they don’t understand something. An instructor inspired Juanita to consider becoming a life coach and is helping her think through what that career path entails. She likes the diversity of the students at the college, and notes that there are many students trying to restart their lives. Juanita appreciates the affordability of the college’s programs, noting that she and many others have been able to go to college without taking out student loans. Fellow students help each other and are eager to share experiences. “Going to school is a sharp turn, but learning is for life,” said Blackshear. “Do not be intimidated by the word ‘college.’ Look at it as another opportunity to improve yourself. Knowledge is powerful. Once you’ve got it, it’s yours.”

New Policy Brief: Community College Contributions
This new policy brief from AACC discusses the significant contributions that America’s community colleges make toward building a more economically prosperous nation, even though they receive a disproportionately lower share of higher education funds than other institutions. This brief provides a better opportunity to understand community colleges’ role as engines of economic development, and frames private and public economic returns of the community college movement in three ways: (1) the community college as a launching pad, (2) the community college as a (re)launching pad, and (3) the community college as a local commitment.
Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

College Productivity: State Policy Approaches to Support Prior Learning Assessment
This resource guide from the Council for Adult & Experiential Learning is intended to serve as a resource for state leaders who wish to promote prior learning assessment (PLA) policy, whether through new higher education regulatory language or through legislation. It addresses what state leaders should consider when developing a custom strategy for promoting PLA. The guide offers examples of state support for PLA and highlights promising approaches being implemented at the state level across the country. Case studies, a sample state policy, a snapshot of what states are doing, and additional resources are provided.

LEARNING

Adult Learners
This helpful tip sheet from the Rochester Institute of Technology contrasts the learning characteristics of adult learners with youth learners to help instructors assembling online courses. The author notes that adult learners usually approach learning differently than younger learners because they are more self-guided in their learning. Older learners bring more, and expect to bring more, to a learning situation because of their wider experience—and can take more away. The tip sheet also discusses teaching strategies for adult learners, teaching styles, and thinking styles. The author makes recommendations for instructors to consider.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Mi Próximo Paso: A Spanish Language Website to Assist Career Explorers & Job Seekers
Mi Próximo Paso enables Spanish-speaking career explorers and job seekers to search more than 900 different careers and see important information including skills, tasks, technologies, salaries, and employment outlook. Find careers through a keyword search, by browsing industries, or through the Web-based O*NET Interest Profiler Short Form, a tool that offers career suggestions based on a person's interests and level of work experience. Mi Próximo Paso also allows users to take advantage of other available Spanish content through seamless links to related certifications, training programs, apprenticeship opportunities, and current job openings. Mi Próximo Paso is the Spanish language version of My Next Move and is part of the Career OneStop sponsored by the U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.
**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**

**Volunteers Matter: NASUAD Excellence in Volunteer Services Award**

This award program recognizes successful state-run programs that are leading the way in the creative use of volunteers in the long-term services and supports network. The award is open to programs that help older adults and persons with disabilities in the long-term services and supports system. Programs must be statewide in scope and operation. Winning programs will demonstrate innovations in one or more of the following: promoting intergenerational interaction, incorporating baby boomers as volunteers, including veterans as volunteers or recipients, and creative strategies for recruitment and retention of volunteers of varying backgrounds, ages, and abilities. The award is presented by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD). Submissions will be accepted through May 30th, 2013.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 13 million students. AACC promotes community colleges through five strategic action areas: recognition and advocacy for community colleges; student access, learning, and success; community college leadership development; economic and workforce development; and global and intercultural education. Information about AACC and community colleges may be found at www.aacc.nche.edu.