AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Palo Verde College Joins Program to Train 10,000 Older Workers for New Jobs,” The Desert Independent, April 2, 2013
- “Training Program at Indian Hills Will Help Adults 50 and Over Find a Career,” KTVO, March 29, 2013
- “RVCC Joins Program to Train Baby Boomers for New Careers,” Hunterdon County Democrat, March 27, 2013

Plus 50 Conference: From Credentials to Careers
Getting baby boomers retrained for new careers is a growing focus for America’s community colleges. To learn how to improve their efforts to help adults age 50 and over come back to campus for community college, more than 100 representatives from 83 community colleges will attend the Plus 50 Conference: From Credentials to Careers. Held in conjunction with the 93rd Annual AACC Convention, the conference will cover readiness, needs assessment, program development, implementation planning, and evaluation. College staff working with plus 50 learners will spotlight practical advice and resources during conference presentations.

Scholarship Watch: Nursing Related Scholarships
The National Health Service Corps offers scholarships for students pursuing a career in primary health who are willing to work in communities with limited access to health care.
• The **NURSE Corps Scholarship Program** is a selective program of the U.S. Government that helps alleviate the critical shortage of nurses currently experienced by certain types of health-care facilities located in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Upon graduation, NURSE Corps Scholarship recipients work at these facilities for at least 2 years, earning the same competitive salary and benefits as any new hire. In exchange for a minimum 2-year service commitment at a critical shortage facility located in a HPSA, the NURSE Corps Scholarship Program pays tuition, eligible fees, other reasonable costs such as books or supplies, and a monthly stipend. Applications are due May 2, 2013, by 7:30 p.m. (ET). You can also sign up to be notified via e-mail about the next application cycle.

• The **CampusRN Scholarship program** offers scholarships to students in nursing and allied health. Winners are selected from six regions in the U.S. where CampusRN has state edition sites. Six $2,500 scholarships are awarded. Applicants have to complete an online form and submit a brief essay. Applications are due May 1, 2013.

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**

**COMPLETION**

*Community Colleges Creating Brighter Futures for Dislocated Workers: A Report of the Walmart Brighter Futures Project*

This report examines a project involving eight community colleges that was designed to help dislocated workers acquire 21st-century job skills and obtain jobs requiring these skills. It also aimed to increase academic progression, retention, and completion rates for dislocated workers. Community colleges located in areas experiencing a high rate of job loss and unemployment across the U.S. were selected for the project, which was funded by Walmart. The report examines what was learned through the initiative. The provision of additional services to dislocated workers was praised by the report authors. Colleges provided navigators, coaches, or counselors who were dedicated to five key strategies: recruitment, case management, career advising and workshops, funding, and tracking. They found that adults experiencing the traumatic effects of job loss needed assistance in many ways, from basic support, to using technology in identifying the next job. The use of these mentoring navigators was consistently found to contribute to student success.
LEARNING

“ePortfolios: Methodology to Validate and Promote Critical Workforce STEM Skills”
The ePortfolio has begun to make significant inroads as employers seek to review a candidate’s qualifications and experience, says this article by the League for Innovation in the Community College. The author encourages community colleges to consider using ePortfolios and provides resources to support college efforts.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Employer Engagement for Community Colleges in Partnerships
This is a brief overview of how community colleges can create strategic partnerships with employers. Employer engagement is essential for colleges so that their students get the skills demanded by industries in their community, says this resource from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.

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.