AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “A Degree Before 80,” *The Hechinger Report - Community College Spotlight* (blog), May 1, 2013
- “Free Services Offered to Job Seekers Locally,” *Morris Daily Herald*, May 1, 2013

Inspiring Moments: Photos from the Plus 50 Conference

You can see photos on AACC’s Facebook page from the Plus 50 Conference: From Credentials to Careers. More than 90 representatives from 81 community colleges attended the conference in San Francisco, which was held in conjunction with the 93rd Annual AACC Convention. The conference focused on building successful programs to help plus 50 adults come back to college to complete high-quality degrees and certificates that lead to employment.

Video Address by Jamie Merisotis, Lumina Foundation

The Plus 50 Conference last month included an inspiring video address from Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of the Lumina Foundation. In the address, he talked about the importance of college efforts to assist plus 50 adults as they complete high-value credentials and degrees. You can watch the video on the AACC YouTube channel.
TAACCCT Grant Program: Applications Due June 18
The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College & Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in 2 years or less, are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations. Earlier rounds of grant funding have been used to build partnerships between community colleges and employers. The TAACCCT grant program at the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) intends to award grants of $2,372,500 to $2,750,000 each to individual applicants from each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (for a total of approximately $150 million). In addition, DOL intends to award grants of up to $25 million to consortium applicants that propose programs that will impact TAA-eligible workers and other adults across a state, region or regions, industry sector, or cluster of related industries. Individual applications are due June 18 and consortium applications are due July 3. More information is available online, including the federal grant announcement.

Free May 30 Webinar: Adult Learning Focused Institution Toolkit
The Adult Learning Focused Institution (ALFI) tools are a pair of survey instruments that work together to help you uncover what is important to your adult learners and how well your institution is helping them succeed. In this free webinar on May 30, 1:30–2:30 p.m. (CT), presented by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), you can learn about these tools and how others have used them to implement changes to improve adult learner programs. Presenters include: Judy Wertheim and Felicia L. Townsend from CAEL, and Julie Bryant from Noel-Levitz. Register online to attend the webinar.

National Council on Aging Launches JobSource Website
The National Council on Aging (NCOA) recently launched JobSource, a new online portal to help older adults assess their work skills, identify job training opportunities, and find employment. JobSource includes a quick job match system that enables users to assess their work interests and transferable skills. Users can also register on the site to earn job skills certifications and enroll in more than 30 free online courses. JobSource is one product of a partnership between NCOA and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. Additionally, NCOA and the foundation are working with local agencies in New Jersey, New York, San Francisco, and Virginia to assist low-income older adults with accessing services to maximize their economic security.
What Are You Doing to Observe Older Americans Month?
May is designated as Older Americans Month and celebration organizers are using social media to help communities get involved. Use the month as an opportunity to educate people about the assets older Americans bring to society and the workplace. Get resources for the celebration online.

“Retirement and Medical Benefits: Who Has Both?”
This article from the Bureau of Labor Statistics examines the different rates of access to medical and retirement benefits and various combinations of the two benefits within private industries. People employed in higher-paying occupations that work full-time in larger businesses have the highest rates of access to these benefits. Union workers have higher rates of access to both benefits than do non-union workers, despite the relatively small share of the workforce represented by unions.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

“Help From the Boss: The Role of Business in the Degree Completion Agenda”
Excelsior College President John Ebersole writes for The Huffington Post about the importance of college completion and notes that businesses are in a unique position to help students through efficient use of tuition assistance programs. But businesses could do more to help students, while saving money at the same time. Ebersole writes that both the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service and the National College Credit Recommendation Service evaluate employer and industry training programs for potential college credit equivalency. For those employees who have satisfactorily completed the assessed training, the credit earned can be applied toward college degree requirements. This saves the employee-student and the employer the cost of tuition to demonstrate the same learning that would otherwise have been paid elsewhere. Over time, such an evaluation can save an employer thousands in tuition assistance dollars and considerably reduce a student's time to degree completion.
LEARNING

“Learning Math at One’s Own Pace”
What was once a developmental mathematics maze for students has been transformed into a strategic sprint to college-level courses at Columbus State Community College in Ohio. The concept was simple: Let students work at their own pace, but with the guidance of a trained instructor, and they can finish as many as four courses in one semester. It was the innovation of Kelly Hogan, a developmental education professor at the college. “Students get exactly what they need, proficiency is ensured and there’s increased student confidence. They have a sense of control,” Hogan says. “Taken together, it’s all bound to lead to improved student success in the long term.” Read more in Community College Times.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Healthcare Virtual Career Network
The Healthcare Virtual Career Network (VCN), sponsored by DOL with leadership by AACC, is a one-stop online tool with information about healthcare careers. The network can be a valuable resource for potential students or students considering careers in healthcare, or those wanting to advance their careers further in the field. The VCN website offers information about education requirements, salaries, and work environments.