AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “ETC Plus 50 Classes Provide Opportunities for Second Career,” KTVO, June 4, 2013
- “Free Services Offered to Job Seekers in the Area,” Morris Daily Herald, June 4, 2013
- “IHCC Workshop for ETC Plus 50 Set Tuesday,” The Fairfield Ledger (Note: a subscription or payment are required to read this article), May 31, 2013
- “Belmont College Receives Grant to Educate Baby Boomers,” Belmont College (press release), May 23, 2013

Zane State College Uses New Plus 50 Branding Templates, Conducts Online Survey for Needs Assessment

The staffers at Zane State College put their new DVD with plus 50 branded materials to work right away, using them to create a beautiful banner on their college’s home page. The banner offers a link to an online survey [for plus 50 adults about their workforce training and career development needs. Results from the survey will be used to help structure the college’s programs for plus 50 adults. Way to go Zane State College! Don’t forget to use your DVD when updating your college’s plus 50 Web page or creating a new one. If you need help using the materials, please let Mary Sue Vickers know.
Plus 50 College Profiles Updated to Include New Grantees
The college profiles page on AACC’s Plus 50 website were recently updated to include information about all of our new college grantees, in addition to the existing colleges that have been involved for a longer period of time. Each college is featured with a paragraph about the college’s plus 50 program and a link to the college’s plus 50 Web page or main website. We realize that many colleges are still in a formative phase with their programs, and that some plans may change. Please contact Mary Sue Vickers, if you have a new plus 50 Web page link for your college, or have new information to share with us for your college’s listing.

Do You Know a College That Should be a Plus 50 College?
AACC is offering grants to an additional 37 member community colleges to start a Plus 50 Encore Completion program on their campus. The goal of the program is to help 10,000 students over age 50 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 request for proposals is available now. Applications will be accepted through September 13, 2013. If you know of a college that would like to grow its programs for plus 50 adults, encourage them to apply.

Coming of Age in Aging America
What will it mean for us all to grow up, live, and age in a society where half the citizens are over the age of 50? Never in human history has this been our reality. And it’s not just Americans. Europe, China, Japan—we are an aging globe. It’s new and it’s not temporary—this is a permanent historic transformation. Coming of Age in Aging America is an extensive public media project by PBS aimed at creating conversation and action to productively shape America as an aging society. The project will include (1) a long form nationally broadcast PBS documentary, (2) a fully built-out interactive and social networked website, and (3) a multi-year public engagement effort to be launched just prior to the broadcast.

Best Cities for Successful Aging
This index measures and ranks the performance of 359 U.S. metropolitan areas in promoting and enabling successful aging. This is an empirical analysis that examines 78 factors that most affect senior quality of life. These include not only health care, crime rates, and weather, but also economic and job conditions, housing, transportation, and social engagement factors that help create a safe, affordable, and connected community for seniors. With surveys showing that the vast majority of seniors want to age in place, the researchers included measurements that reflect their needs—and how well cities meet them. The index also recognizes the new economic and social reality that, especially for the 65–79 age group, many seniors want to continue paid employment. Provo, Utah, the top city among the largest metros, scored high in a variety of factors: its active, healthy lifestyle (the fewest fast-food outlets per capita); a No. 1 ranking in growth of small businesses; seven medical centers in
the area, three of them magnet hospitals; and one of the highest numbers of volunteers per capita. The top-ranking smaller city, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has hospitals that specialize in geriatric services, and its booming economy provides a strong financial base, with the highest employment rate for seniors among the 259 small cities.

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**

**COMPLETION**

**Employer Views on the Value of Prior Learning Assessment**

This research brief from the Council for Adult & Experiential Learning presents highlights from conversations with 19 U.S. employers representing a range of industries on the topic of prior learning assessment (PLA). The conversations address the value of PLA to both workers and corporations, as well as employers’ views on PLA as an allowable expense within their tuition assistance programs. One utility company involved in the study had already gone through the process of having its internal training evaluated for credit by a postsecondary institution, and the college credit recommendations have benefitted the employees pursuing their degrees. The employer noted, “Employees have been very enthusiastic. They are getting degrees. There would be a real disincentive without that PLA option. They don’t have to start all over again this way.”

**LEARNING**

“Why Older Minds Make Better Decisions”

Even though memory skills decline with age, our decision-making skills may actually improve, say scientists. This article on the Next Avenue website, organized by PBS, examines decision neuroscience, a relatively new field that draws from a wide range of specialties to examine how we make decisions. The author reports researchers believe that as we age, we may become better able to differentiate between important and less important information.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

**The Aging Workforce: Challenges for the Health Care Industry Workforce**

The aging of the U.S. population has tremendous implications for the health care industry, both as employers of an older workforce and as providers of services to a growing number of older patients, says this research brief. To explore issues relating to the aging health-care workforce, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy funded a 1-day symposium called “The Aging Workforce: Challenges for the Health Care Industry Workforce.” The symposium examined the challenges an aging workforce poses for the health-care industry and explored strategies to retain older health-care professionals,
including older professionals with age-related disabilities. State and national experts from the fields of health care, workforce development, and disability employment worked together to develop a set of recommendations to help employers and public policymakers identify promising and more effective ways to recruit and retain skilled health-care professionals, regardless of age. The symposium’s goal was to identify innovative policies and practices aimed at promoting the employment, and continued employment, of aging workers in the health-care sector. This brief identifies promising strategies from that symposium and offers some encouraging and notable examples from the participants that policymakers and employers could pursue to address the challenges of an aging health-care workforce. The Plus 50 Encore Completion Program is mentioned on page 7.