In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “Grant Helps Baby Boomers Enter Health Careers,” Seminole State College (press release), June 17, 2013
- “Jackson County MGCCC Program Helps Baby Boomers Update Work Skills,” Sun Herald, June 13, 2013
- “San Jacinto College Promotes Baby Boomer Education,” Ultimate Pasadena, June 12, 2013
- “Virginia Western Chosen as Part of National Campaign to Retrain Adult Learners,” VWCC News, June 7, 2013
- “Retool, Refresh or Retrain: NOC Starting New Initiative for Adult Over Age 50,” Enid News and Eagle, June 7, 2013
- “STLCC Plus 50 Initiative,” St. Louis American, June 6, 2013 (article starts mid-page)

Mabel Edmonds, Advocate for Plus 50 Students, Accepts New 1-Year Appointment

Plus 50 students could find no greater advocate than Mabel Edmonds, and now she’s going to make an even greater difference across Clover Park Technical College. Edmonds recently accepted a 1-year appointment as associate vice president for instruction. The appointment was announced by Dr. John Walstrum, president of the college, who said, “Mabel has been engaged in a broad range of CPTC projects and has statewide and federal education experiences which will provide the continuity of services necessary at this time. Her previous experiences will contribute to our efforts to ensure instructional leadership as the college adapts to the demands on postsecondary education in the future.” She will assume her new role on July 1, 2013.
Funding Opportunity: National Service Agency Announces $14 Million Funding Opportunity to Engage Volunteers 55+
The Corporation for National and Community Service released the RSVP 2014 Notice of Funding Opportunity competition to provide local nonprofit and public agencies an opportunity to increase their capacity by engaging adults age 55 and older in high impact volunteer service. More than $14 million will be awarded to local organizations to sponsor RSVP programs. Letters of intent to apply are due August 9, 2013. The deadline for applications is September 10, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. (ET).

Upcoming Webinars: Cognitive Stimulation Ideas, Improving Mobility, and Developing Plus 50 Leaders for Civic Engagement
The American Society for Aging (ASA) offers a number of free webinars related to topics impacting plus 50 adults, including several of interest to community college leaders. All of the webinars are held at 1:00 p.m. (ET).

- The webinar, From Paper and Pencil to iPads: Cutting Edge Ideas for Activities and Cognitive Stimulation, on July 18 will help users learn a dozen cognitive stimulation activities designed to improve memory and cognition in older adults. They will also be able to describe how to make the activities increase in difficulty and be able to name available applications for tablets that aid cognitive stimulation.
- An hour-long webinar on improving mobility for individuals with limited transportation options will be held August 8, and offer new ideas.
- Carol Davis, vice president of community outreach at Spoon River College and a Plus 50 Champion, will lead a webinar on August 22 on developing plus 50 leaders for civic engagement. Attendees will be able to create a draft program outline, identify three main individual learning styles and list three or more resources to help build successful programs.

Now Seeking: College Applicants for the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program
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 it to apply.

Data Resource: Projections of High School Graduates
While high school graduating classes are becoming more ethnically diverse, the era of annually increasing graduation classes is ending, says the eighth edition of a well-known report by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education. Where will America get its next
generation of workers? Or will our country need to make better use of older workers and keep them in the workforce longer? This data-driven report offers state-by-state data and downloadable fact sheets. These data are useful when talking with employers about the importance of keeping plus 50 adults working, and when talking with community college leaders about services and supports for plus 50 adults on campus.

If your college is working with area healthcare employers, you will want to pass along a copy of this free toolkit. As one of the fastest growing sectors in the U.S., the healthcare industry is facing an unprecedented growth rate. This healthcare toolkit from Experience Works and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce shares information about older workers in Pennsylvania and offers advice on why employers should retain older workers. Studies have shown that employers who are willing to create friendly environments for older workers are retaining the skills and knowledge of these workers, which makes good business sense. Studies have shown that high turnover rates increase overall costs for healthcare providers. Chapters are included on recruiting and retaining older workers, reskilling the experienced workforce for healthcare needs, and the unique issues faced by older workers in the healthcare workplace. Employers will also find the sections on managing generational differences in the workplace and understanding and using effective policies helpful.

New Adventures for Older Workers
Created by PBS Newshour, this interactive online resource presents information about current trends as baby boomers age, think about retirement, and stay in the workplace. Users can answer questions and see how their responses compare to current and past trends. The content is organized into chapters on rethinking retirement, a snapshot of the financial costs of growing older, working for a nest egg, working in retirement, and moving forward.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education
As the demand for skilled workers continues to grow, a new report by Lumina Foundation shows that the rate of college attainment is steadily improving across America. Unfortunately, the pace of progress is far too modest to meet future workforce needs. The report also finds massive and ongoing gaps in educational achievement—gaps tied to race, income, and other socioeconomic factors—that must be addressed. According to the report, 38.7% of working-age Americans (ages 25–64) held a 2- or 4-year college degree in 2011—the most recent year for which data are available. That figure is up from 2010, when the rate was 38.3% and from 2009, when the rate was 38.1%. The report measures progress toward
Goal 2025 which is a national effort to increase the percentage of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025. The metro-region data and state policy briefs that accompany the report will be particularly helpful for community colleges working toward completion goals.

**LEARNING**

*It Takes More than a Major: Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success*

This report by the Association of American Colleges and Universities provides a detailed analysis of employers’ priorities for the kinds of learning today’s college students need to succeed in this innovation-fueled economy. It also reports on changes in educational and assessment practices that employers recommend. Nearly all employers surveyed (95%) say they give hiring preference to college graduates with skills that will enable them to contribute to innovation in the workplace. Nearly all those surveyed (93%) say that “a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than [a candidate’s] undergraduate major.” Two in three employers believe most college graduates have the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in entry-level positions, but only 44% believe they have what is required for advancement and promotion to higher levels. Business and non-profit leaders are highly interested in partnering with colleges and universities to provide more hands-on learning opportunities and to help college students successfully make the transition from college into the workplace.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

*Is an Aging Workforce Less Productive?*

Older workers are sometimes thought to be less productive than younger ones, raising the question of whether an aging workforce will also be a less productive one. Researcher Gary Burtless concludes that the answer is an emphatic “no” in this new report from the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. The improvement in older Americans’ educational attainment has improved their job market position. The research shows there are enormous differences between the labor force participation rates of older Americans depending on their level of schooling. People with limited education have low employment rates in old age. In a blog post for Brookings Institution, the researcher also describes the data from the study and discusses several charts.