AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “60-Something Pursues New Degrees,” The Tennessean, June 25, 2013
- “Overcoming Back-to-School Fear to Make a New Start,” Community College Times, June 24, 2013
- “Helping Those Over 50 Get a College Education,” WVTF, June 24, 2013
- “Lansing Community College,” Fox 47 Morning Blend, June 20, 2013
- “Education Opportunities for Adults at SUNY Broome Community College,” WNBF News Radio 1290, June 12, 2013

Now Seeking: College Applicants for the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program

AACC is offering grants to additional 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.
What's the Value of a Credential or Degree?
A new online tool from the California Community College Chancellor's Office helps students and the public see the financial value of earning a credential or degree from a community college in certain fields. It also lists which colleges in the state offer programs in those fields. Known as Salary Surfer, the online tool provides median earnings for those who complete a certificate or 2-year degree and then enter the workforce. The tool displays annual incomes for those who complete 179 of the most widely-enrolled program areas and do not transfer to a 4-year institution.
An analysis of the data on Salary Surfer shows that students who complete an associate degree more than double their annual pre-degree earnings after 2 years in the workforce and nearly triple their pre-degree earnings after 5 years in the workforce. Nearly 45% of students who graduated with an associate degree and did not transfer earned more than $54,000 annually 5 years after getting their degree, according to the chancellor's office. That is the median wage of someone with a bachelor's degree living in California, based on U.S. Census Bureau data. Read more in Community College Times or visit Salary Surfer online.

AARP Announces 2013 Best Employers for Workers Over Age 50
The National Institutes of Health tops the list of the recipients of the 2013 AARP Best Employers for Workers Over 50 award, cosponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management. The 50 winners were announced on June 17, 2013. Award winners have set outstanding examples through programs that help them retain, retrain, engage, and recruit the older workers who will be increasingly crucial to their success and the success of the U.S. economy over the coming decade. The list of 2013 winners includes employers from a variety of industry sectors, including health care and education.

Mark Your Calendar: National Employ Older Workers Week in September
National Employ Older Workers Week will be observed September 22–28, 2013, and is organized by the U.S. Department of Labor. This week of promotional activities nationwide increases awareness about the employability of workers age 55 and over. Plus 50 college staff can take advantage of this promotional opportunity by holding an event that engages the media and highlights your efforts to get older workers trained for new careers in education, social services and health care. This is a great opportunity to highlight alumni success stories, ongoing training programs and other activities that showcase the employability of older workers. Check out the Business Community Outreach Toolkit for tip sheets about hiring plus 50 workers, myths about mature workers, and tips on retaining and recruiting mature workers.
Senior Community Service Employment Program
The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a community service and work-based training program for older workers. Authorized by the Older Americans Act, SCSEP provides subsidized, service-based training for low-income persons age 55 or older who are unemployed. The intent is their community service training becomes a bridge to unsubsidized employment opportunities. Participants have access to both SCSEP services and other employment assistance. Some plus 50 college programs partner with SCSEP projects to tailor special job readiness training for participants, such as computer skill building. Go online for a listing of the contacts for state and national organizations operating SCSEP programs.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Completion Day
Community colleges are a critical resource for a growing number of New Yorkers and a key component of the state’s economic competitiveness. But they are taken for granted by policymakers and continue to face enormous challenges in graduating students, says this Center for an Urban Future report. Only 35% of full-time students who enroll at community colleges in New York end up graduating or moving on to a 4-year institution. Although more New Yorkers are choosing to enroll in community colleges, many are unprepared for college level work. Fifty percent of students across the state—and 79% in New York City—need remedial work before they can begin a specialized career track. Moreover, even as enrollment has increased, state funding has declined by 29% over the last decade, leading to higher tuition costs and a larger financial burden for many students of moderate means. The authors note that higher community college completion rates would dramatically increase the earning potential of thousands of New Yorkers. They estimate that increasing graduation rates by just 10 percentage points would provide a $150 million 1-year boost to the state economy; a $41 million increase in the annual incomes of those who graduate; a $32 million increase in economic activity as those higher earning graduates spend more on goods and services; and $44 million in taxpayer investments going toward graduates rather than dropouts.

LEARNING

Faculty Engagement to Enhance Student Attainment
This report by the American Council on Education addresses the key role faculty can play in realizing the national goal of increased college completion rates. The author identifies changes and challenges in higher education that impact broader faculty engagement around completion efforts. The paper reviews prevailing approaches for promoting fuller faculty engagement in student attainment and identifies new strategies for achieving broader faculty involvement.
TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Health Workforce Information Center
The Health Workforce Information Center provides free access to the most recent resources on the nation’s health workforce in one easy-to-use online location. Resources available through the website can help health providers, educators, researchers, and policymakers develop strategies to meet future workforce demands. College staff working with Plus 50 Encore programs with a focus on health care workforce training will be especially interested in the section organizing information by state in topics like health workforce planning, health care employment projections and education data. Information is also available by specific health professions. A free monthly e-newsletter with website updates is also available.

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.