AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

“'Plus 50' Initiative Helps Community College Retrain Unemployed Baby Boomers," Recruiting & Retaining Adult Learners, July 10, 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.

SPECIAL FOCUS: Financial Aid Ideas & Scholarships for Plus 50 Students

Rethinking Pell Grants
This 64-page report proposes significant changes to the Pell Grant program by recommending that separate paths be set up to assist older adults and younger students. In describing its vision of a new “two-path" structure, the Study Group argues that Pell Grants should be available to help disadvantaged adults and displaced workers pay for needed education and training, but that they cannot replace wages while students are in school. The authors believe that the federal government should encourage state governments to allow older adult students to supplement their income.
their financial aid with existing income support programs to improve their chances of completing college. The report suggests replacing the traditional needs analysis system used today to determine eligibility for Pell Grants with simple, specified income requirements for adult students. Qualifying adult students could have access through the Pell Grant program to a set amount of funding that makes it possible for them to pay tuition and fees and buy books and supplies. The study group was convened by the College Board and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Lumina Foundation.

Financial Aid for Students: Online Resources
This Congressional Research Service report identifies online sources for planning and acquiring funds for postsecondary education. Specialized resources are listed for adult students, veterans, and those seeking careers in health care. The report will be updated annually.

Scholarships for Non-Traditional Students

- **Adult Students in Scholastic Transition (ASIST)—Executive Women International**
The Adult Students in Scholastic Transition (ASIST) scholarship is available to adults facing economic, social, or physical challenges, who want to improve their situation through education. Local Chapters of Executive Women International (EWI) partner with educational providers and social services agencies to identify potential candidates. Students first apply and compete at the local chapter level. Chapter-level winners are submitted to the corporate level for the opportunity to be selected for one of 13 scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. Each chapter has its own deadline date for submitting an application, so contact your local chapter to obtain their timeline for the application process.

- **Non-Traditional Student Scholarship—American Legion Auxiliary**
Applicants for this scholarship must be members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion. Scholarship recipients are non-traditional students returning to the classroom after their formal education was interrupted, or a non-traditional student who is just beginning his/her education at a later point in life. This scholarship is typically around $2,000 and applications are typically due by March 1.

- **Jeanette Rankin Women’s Scholarship Fund**
Applicants for this scholarship must be at least age 35 or older, low-income and a permanent U.S. citizen or resident. Applications must be postmarked by March 1. Scholarships will be distributed in the fall semester.

- **Talbot Women's Scholarship Fund**
This fund provides scholarships for women who are returning to college to secure a professional degree. Applicants must have graduated high school, or earned their GED, no less than 10 years
previous to applying for the award. Six $10,000, and 60 $1000, scholarships are awarded annually. Scholarship applications are usually accepted in December.

- **Walmart Associate Scholarships**
  These scholarships are available to people who work full or part time with any division of Walmart for at least 6 months. Applications are accepted four times per year. The next round of applications launched on August 1 and will be due September 3, 2013.

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**

**COMPLETION**

“Rallying Faculty and Securing Resources for Completion”
If community colleges are to meet the goals of the Completion Agenda, they will need strong leadership from college presidents, key leaders, and trustees, writes author Terry O’Banion. In order to transform the design of the community college and pave the way for completion efforts, two very important tasks for leaders to address in the early stages of planning are the need to (1) rally faculty and staff, and (2) secure resources to support this agenda. This essay was published by the League for Innovation in the Community College.

**LEARNING**

Marketing Encore College Programs
This audio seminar provides tips on marketing community college programs for plus 50 adults to potential students. Rebecca Waters, former manager of the Virginia Community College System's Educate VA Career Switcher Program, discusses ways to network with employers and community organizations to help attract students. She also offers ideas for low-cost and free advertising, as well as tips on creating a good website.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

“Why Companies Need All the Middle-Aged Brains They Can Get”
Neurological changes that come with middle age make mature workers more valuable to employers, notes this blog post from Next Avenue. Brains retain their cognitive abilities as we age, say researchers. Logical reasoning skills improve with age and can make older workers more valuable to employers because they can more effectively size up a situation and make a decision. It’s important for those in middle age to keep their minds sharp and their bodies moving.
PLUS 50 TRENDS

Aging Integrated Database
If you need to research adults age 60 and over for a grant application or community presentation, this searchable database offers a treasure trove of data. Using American Community Survey (2010) and U.S. Census Bureau data, this Administration on Aging database allows you to examine a wide variety of factors, including educational levels and employment status, while breaking down data by state.