AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “STLCC Launches Online Job Search Engine,” The St. Louis American, August 15, 2013
- “Raising Your College’s Enrollments and Completion Rate: Grant Funding Available to Help,” National Council on Workforce Education, August 6, 2013
- “VGCCC Receives Plus 50 Grant,” Vance-Granville Community College (press release), August 5, 2013
- “CCBC Receives Grant From Plus 50 Initiative,” The Community College of Baltimore County (press release), August 5, 2013
- “‘A’ is for ‘Adult’: Grown-Ups Heading Back to School,” The Costco Connection, August 1, 2013
- “Grant Opportunities for Community Colleges,” California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office eUpdate, August 1, 2013

Two Weeks Left to Apply: Join 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.
Awards: IHEP Institutional Champions of Access and Success Awards
In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the Institute for Higher Education Policy is seeking submissions for its inaugural IHEP Institutional Champions of Access and Success Awards. This new award program will showcase institutions that lead exceptional efforts to improve access and success for underserved students across the nation. Applications are due October 1, 2013, and winners will be announced at the IHEP National Policy Summit on December 3, 2013, in Washington, DC.

Building Your Program: The Plus 50 Business Community Outreach Toolkit
Are you thinking about expanding partnerships with the business community and making new connections to help your plus 50 program at your community college? Our Plus 50 Business Community Outreach Toolkit is a helpful resource that is loaded with tips and information to help college staff.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Measuring Post-Traditional Student Success: Institutions Making Progress, but Challenges Remain
This report examines how institutions assess non-traditional student completion efforts using survey data from 2012 and 2013. The 2013 survey included a number of questions related to institutions’ abilities to benchmark their performance against one another. While primarily 4-year institutions were surveyed, some of the practices identified in this report could assist 2-year colleges. Many colleges reported that they are addressing post-baccalaureate student attrition by offering specialized counseling and academic advising options for certain populations, increasing the number of advisors and counselors, improving academic tutoring, putting in place non-academic coaching and mentoring, offering credit for prior learning, and improving faculty advising.

LEARNING

Contextualized College Transition Strategies for Adult Basic Skills Students: Learning from Washington State’s I-BEST Program Model
Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) integrates the teaching of basic skills and technical content in order to accelerate basic skills students’ transition into and through a college-level occupational field of study. This study represents the final phase of a multi-year evaluation of the I-BEST model that began in 2009, conducted by the Community College Research Center in collaboration with MPR Associates and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Based on fieldwork undertaken in spring 2011 on 16 I-BEST programs at eight colleges, this report seeks to understand those aspects
of I-BEST that best support student learning, progression, and completion. In addition, the report considers the I-BEST student experience and presents the results of a cost-benefit analysis of the program. The findings and recommendations highlighted in the report will be of interest to funders, policymakers, and practitioners in other states who are considering transition interventions similar to the I-BEST model.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

*WorkAdvance: Testing a New Approach to Increase Employment Advancement for Low-Skilled Adults*

This policy brief by MRDC discusses a new skills-building model called “WorkAdvance” that is designed to help low-income adults prepare for, enter, and succeed in quality jobs, in high-demand fields with opportunities for career growth. The model is currently being evaluated in a randomized control trial in four locations. This brief discusses the origins of the WorkAdvance model, its major features, how it is being evaluated, and some early observations of how the providers are operating the program. Depending on the location, these sectors of the labor market currently include, for example, information technology (IT), transportation, manufacturing, health care, and environmental remediation. The WorkAdvance model incorporates strategies often found in sector-based employment programs that have operated for years. It combines these strategies with job coaching after participants are placed into jobs, building on approaches that showed promise in earlier “postemployment” interventions.

**PLUS 50 TRENDS**

*How did the Great Recession Affect Social Security Claiming?*

Social Security retirement claiming grew in 2009 as unemployment soared. The increase was modest, however, because unemployment growth at older ages was largely offset by growth in the number of older adults choosing to work longer, says this new study by the Urban Institute. Half of women and more than half of men now wait until after age 62 to claim their retirement benefits, the largest proportions in decades. The recent increase in Social Security’s full retirement age has prompted many retirees to wait at least until they turn 66 years old to begin collecting benefits, as a quarter of men now claim at that age or later.