In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Helping Non-Traditional College Students,” The Sheridan Press, September 13, 2013
- “GCC to Offer Medical Coding & Billing Bootcamp for Obamacare,” Pacific News Center, September 13, 2013
- “Free Job Search Workshops for People Over 50,” Transition to Success Newsletter, August 29, 2013

Plus 50 Students, College Staff to Attend Convening for Adult College Completion Network

Lessons from the Plus 50 Completion Strategy will be shared at a convening for the Adult College Completion Network being held in St. Louis October 1–3, 2013. AACC’s Mary Sue Vickers, who directs and leads the Plus 50 Initiative, will attend the convening for Lumina Foundation grantees. St. Louis Community College (STLCC) staff members Heather Ellison and Christy Jaeger who have worked extensively with plus 50 students will participate in the event and two plus 50 students from STLCC will be part of a panel featuring the stories of adults who are completing postsecondary degrees. Student Cindy Hernandez is participating in the college’s MOHealth WINs program to complete her certification in health informatics as an information technology help desk/end-user support specialist. Student Junita Blackshear is also part of the MOHealth WINs program and is working to become a medical assistant. We look forward to sharing their contributions on the panel.
Dispel Myths About Older Workers: National Employ Older Workers Week

The United States observes National Employ Older Workers Week every year in late September. This fact sheet from the National Council on Aging clears up myths about older workers. While some falsely believe that older workers have high turnover rates, that’s not the case. Older workers are less likely to jump from job to job compared to younger workers, and their reduced turnover also may help to lower employers’ expenses. If you are working with area employers to nurture plus 50 workforce training and hiring and looking for information on additional dispelling myths about plus 50 workers, use our Business Community Outreach Toolkit.

Funding Opportunity for Original Academic Research on Employment and Training Topics

If you are interested in conducting research on plus 50 workforce training and employment, you may want to review a grant opportunity from the U.S. Department of Labor offering funds to support doctoral and post-doctoral students carrying out relevant research on policy related to employment and training topics that align with the Employment and Training Administration’s 5-year strategic research plan for 2012–2017. Eligible research topics may include understanding changing labor markets, identifying effective strategies, improving workforce system infrastructure, addressing the needs of special populations, and building research infrastructure and support. The application deadline is November 11, 2013.

Department of Labor Announces TAACCCT Grants: Identify Potential Partners for Your Program

The Department of Labor recently announced a new round of grants to community colleges through a nearly $2-billion initiative called the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) program. The initiative expands targeted training programs for unemployed workers, especially for those in industries affected by foreign trade. You can read more in a Community College Times article. A list of community colleges and consortia receiving TAACCCT grants is included. Many of the workers who may qualify for assistance through this program may be plus 50 adults. Colleges working with this population will want to look at AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative resources for guidance in how to successfully support this population on campus and in the classroom. Colleges that are already part of the Plus 50 Initiative may want to reach out to colleagues working with the TAACCCT grant for mutual collaboration and support. An example of that collaboration is found in the earlier article about St. Louis Community College and the MOHealth WINs program.
Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Guided Pathways to Student Success: Perspectives From Indiana College Students & Advisors
Indiana's higher education attainment rates are lagging behind national averages at a time when postsecondary credentials are needed. To support the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's efforts to address this problem, Public Agenda held 11 focus groups with current students, non-completing students, professional advisors and faculty advisors, in addition to reviewing relevant literature. This paper presents the results of the focus groups and the literature review, and offers strategies to improve completion rates in Indiana. The 35-page paper offers a practical look at what hinders completion rates and what could be done to improve them.

LEARNING

“Learning Styles: One Size Fits None?”
This article in Faculty Matters by Phoenix University discusses theories about using learning styles in the classroom to influence instructional strategies and the research available to support these theories. A faculty poll with excerpted comments sheds additional light on the ongoing debate about learning styles in the classroom.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

State Health Workforce Resources
This website from the Health Workforce Information Center offers a wealth of data on the health workforce, state health workforce planning reports, state labor market data, state education data, and health workforce news. Students exploring careers in the health care sector will find plenty of resources and information. For those pursuing training for a career in the health workforce, a variety of funding resources are listed, including fellowships, scholarships, grants, and student loans. A number of health career recruiters are also listed under the technical assistance area within funding and opportunities on the website.
PLUS 50 TRENDS

Health Care
Health insurance will change in important ways in 2014 and this website offers tips in English and in Spanish on how to get ready for these changes. Created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this website answers questions about health insurance changes and offers a marketplace where you can apply for health insurance coverage, compare plans, and enroll for coverage.

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.