In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Plus 50 Health Care Opportunities,” Santa Fe College (news release), January 13, 2014
- “Piedmont Technical College Joins Project to Train Older Workers,” GwD Today, January 10, 2014
- “Next Plus 50 Encore Class to be Held January 14,” The Sheridan Press, January 7, 2014
- “The Older Worker,” Meriden Record-Journal, January 6, 2014
- “Clark State to Train Baby Boomers for New Jobs,” Xenia Gazette, January 4, 2014

Lansing Community College Plans Encore! Plus 50 Expo
The Encore! Plus 50 Expo offers workshops and information to help plus 50 adults determine their next steps forward in their careers. Organized by Lansing Community College, the event will be held March 4, 12:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. at the East Campus. The event includes guest speakers from outside event partners like AARP, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), and the Small Business Technology and Development Center. Free resume writing and interview tips workshops will help plus 50 adults improve their skills and invite them to consider educational opportunities at the college.
Research: Older Workers Are Not Responsible for Unemployment Among Younger Workers

A recent story in USA Today discussed research findings showing that older workers are not responsible for unemployment among younger workers. Researchers conducted an exhaustive study from 1977 to 2011 and found that older workers were not “crowding out” younger workers. This finding holds for both men and women, for groups with different educational levels, and even during the Great Recession.

Where is the Labor Force Going to Grow in the Next Ten Years? Find Out Here!

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released labor force, industry, and occupational projections for the next 10 years. Occupations and industries related to health care are projected to add the most new jobs between 2012 and 2022. Total employment is projected to increase 10.8%, or 15.6 million, during the decade. You can read the news release and see industry and labor force projections. The Occupational Outlook Handbook was released as well. It reflects BLS occupational employment projections and features information on general job descriptions of occupations, the typical work environment, training and credentials necessary to enter a field, as well as average earnings. The OOH is one of the most widely used sources of career information. A graphic representation highlighting these upcoming trends appears in a special issue of the Winter 2013–14 Occupational Outlook Quarterly.

Administration Matters: Getting Optimal Survey Results

If you are planning to survey plus 50 students on campus or potential plus 50 students in the community, this blog post for the Adult College Completion Network by Patricia Steele at HigherEd Insight offers helpful information. She says that how you administer the survey is just as important as what you ask. Personalizing a survey with an introductory note that explains the survey’s purpose and importance can help. In the note, tell respondents who you are, the purpose of the survey, why the survey is important, how the results may benefit them, how much their thoughts matter, if the survey is confidential, who to contact with questions about the survey, and what incentives you are offering for survey completion, if any.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program
COMPLETION

“Credit for Service”
Statewide higher education offices in seven Midwestern states, known as the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, have banded together to help student veterans earn college credit for the training and experience they receive in the U.S. military. This September 2013 article by Inside Higher Ed examines their efforts. About a million veterans have enrolled in higher education since returning from service in Iraq or Afghanistan. However, many of them may not have received adequate credit for prior learning while serving in the Armed Forces. Supporters say acceptance of American Council on Education recommendations on prior learning credit for veterans need to be more widespread, so veterans do not waste time and money taking classes to earn credits for things they already know.

LEARNING

“Urge Students to Prepare for Math Placement Exams”
Community colleges need to do a better job of informing incoming students that they should prepare for math placement exams, urges a new research brief by the Community College Research Center, which is based at Columbia University. In general, colleges are using better entry assessments and have improved placement procedures. They also make test preparation materials available to students. Where community colleges fall short, however, is in ensuring students know how important these tests are and that they need to prepare for them. That’s critical because “lack of preparation may undermine students’ exam performance and negatively affect the accuracy of their placement,” the brief says. As a result, many students waste time in non-credit developmental courses they don’t need—or drop out before taking a “real” college class. Read a summary in Community College Daily.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

2012 Geographic Profile Series
If you are seeking data on unemployment trends for a needs assessment or grant application, this data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) can help you. The 2012 Geographic Profile Series covers the four census regions and nine divisions, the 50 states, 54 large metropolitan areas, 22
metropolitan divisions, and 41 cities. The tables show data by gender, age, race, ethnic origin, educational attainment, occupation, industry, class of worker, weekly working hours, full- and part-time status, reasons for unemployment and for not working, and unemployment duration. BLS held a webinar in December to help college staff and others understand how to use the geographic profile series data. Slides and the webinar recording are available.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

U.S. Baby Boomers Hit a Milestone This Year
The youngest members of the baby boomer generation, those born in 1964, will turn age 50 this year. In this lighthearted essay by P.J. O'Rourke, the writer reflects on what the baby boomer generation has meant and its widespread impact on society.