AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “VGCC Nabs Millions in Grants Last Year,” Henderson Daily Dispatch (free registration required to read story), February 5, 2014
- “Brookdale Course Offers Job Training for Boomers,” Asbury Park Press, February 5, 2014
- “Brookdale to Train Older Workers for Health Care and Social Services Jobs, College to Establish Center for Adult Learning,” Brookdale Community College (press release), February 4, 2014
- “A Tale of Two Colleges Serving Older Learners,” Community College Daily, January 29, 2014

Lake Region State College Helps Plus 50 Students with Monthly Newsletter
Students age 50 and over can find helpful study tips and advice in Lake Region State College’s plus 50 newsletter. Issued on a monthly basis, the newsletter offers tips on how to research and write papers, take notes, or break tasks into meaningful chunks. You can see the newsletter on the college’s plus 50 website, which uses templates provided by AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative.

Lumina Seeks Feedback on New Version of Degree Qualification Profile by March 15
Lumina Foundation has released a new version of its Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP). This version, known as DQP 2.0, is still intended to provide definitions for learning signified by associate, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. Individuals, organizations, and institutions interested in reviewing the framework are invited to provide
feedback on the document through March 15 on the DQP website. Lumina released the first version in 2011 and this version reflects feedback from initial users. Lumina plans to incorporate new feedback and publish another version in fall 2014 that also includes postsecondary certificates.

Grant Funding: Ready to Work to Offer $150 Million to Innovative Partnerships
To help the long-term unemployed attain the skills they need to find good-paying jobs, the federal government will award grants to scale up innovative partnerships among employers and nonprofits, including community colleges. The $150 million Ready to Work program will be administered through the U.S. Department of Labor. It will look at partnerships that use effective or promising strategies, such as job-placement assistance, paid internships, and registered apprenticeships. Read coverage in Community College Daily about the grant program and more about the White House plan to address long-term unemployment.

American Legion Auxiliary Non-Traditional Student Scholarship
The American Legion Auxiliary scholarship helps people who are part of the “Legion family” pursue a college degree later in life or allow them to pick up where they left off when their studies were interrupted. Five scholarships, each in the amount of $2,000, will be awarded to non-traditional students. One $1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. Applications are due by April 1, 2014.

Competency Models: Outlining Skills Needed for Workplace Success
The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration is working with business leaders, educators, and others to create comprehensive and readily accessible industry competency models that document the foundational and technical skills and competencies required for workplace success in economically important industries, including Allied Health, Electronic Health Records, and Long Term Care, Supports and Services. A competency model provides a clear description of what a person needs to know and be able to do to perform well in a specific job, occupation, or industry.

The Competency Model Clearinghouse User Guides are designed to assist users in developing and utilizing competency models and career ladders/lattices. The user guides provide step-by-step directions and resources. These guides cover such topics as developing a career ladder/lattice, communicating workforce needs, identifying credential competencies, developing curriculum, and career exploration and guidance.
Top Jobs in 10 Years
The health care sector and social assistance sector (which includes child and youth services and community services) are projected to account for almost one third of the total increase in employment over the next 10 years. Of the 30 occupations projected to have the largest percentage increase in employment between 2012 and 2022, 14 are related to health care. On C-SPAN's "America by the Numbers," Kristina Bartsch, chief of the Division of Occupational Employment Projections at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, discusses industries and occupations projected to gain jobs between 2012 and 2022, and the education needed for those jobs.

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. This toolkit is one of many helpful resources you can find links to in C-PAD and on the Plus 50 website.

Recorded Webinar: Engaging Older Workers in the Public Workforce System
Older workers are praised by employers for their experience and professionalism, but suffered disproportionately high rates of unemployment in the latest recession. American Job Centers can help connect employers with the workers they seek by assessing how they serve older workers. In this recorded webinar, representatives of the Employment and Training Administration, the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, the National Association of Workforce Boards, AARP, and two local areas to discuss creative ways to connect older workers with the services, support, and training they need to attain in-demand jobs.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Five Idaho colleges increased retention rates for non-traditional students by 500% above the national average through this pilot project sponsored by the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. Results were achieved through a 3-year program designed to improve retention and completion rates at Idaho community and technical colleges and fuel the state's economy with skilled workers. The pilot project used nationally proven best practices designed to lower barriers and develop resilience.
LEARNING

“6 Top Facts About Adult Learning Theory Every Educator Should Know”
This brief article examines six key facets of adult learning theory. These insights can help educators improve classroom experiences for plus 50 adults. Adult learning is self-directed and may utilize life experiences or prior knowledge. Adult learning is goal- and relevancy-oriented, having practical applications to life and for the learner. Adult learning also values practicality and encourages collaboration.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Career Navigation in a Volatile Labor Market
This working paper by the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce explores how organizations and communities can build better infrastructures to support workers as they navigate education opportunities. Organizations and/or communities can help workers make smart decisions about job training and education opportunities by identifying and building a network of trusted partners across organizations that reflect expertise in these core competencies; documenting the use of high-tech career navigation tools that are already available, including their successes and gaps in support; obtaining feedback from workers attempting to navigate and make good choices in their local context of educational options and determining areas of strength and weakness from their perspective; and inventorying the competencies already available and well-established in the local community, the reach and resources of these organizations, and opportunities to strengthen connections and close gaps in serving working learners.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

“For Some, Retirement is Out of Reach. For Others, Boring”
This New York Times article discusses why many baby boomers continue working well into traditional retirement age. For some, staying in the labor force is a financial necessity. But others enjoy the challenges and successes found in the workplace and have no plans to retire.