AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Lumina Foundation Partners with College Unbound to Sponsor $10,000 Challenge
Lumina Foundation has partnered with College Unbound to design quality higher education for adult learners. They’ve issued a challenge to design a higher education innovation that integrates the tenets of the College Unbound curriculum and the online learning environment to increase the accessibility and sustainability of the current program. The goal is to create an online innovation with on ground application and support that builds upon the cornerstones of the current curriculum and increases the accessibility and sustainability of the program. Adult learners and institutions are encouraged to submit a solution drawing upon their own experiences to inform their entries. Winners of the design challenge will split $10,000, with first place receiving at least $5,000. Submissions to this Challenge must be received by 11:59 p.m. (ET), on June 30, 2014.

Plus 50 Materials in Action: Colleges Demonstrate How Using AACC Materials Can Help Inform
Several colleges participating in the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program have created materials using their own ingenuity and the advice and templates provided by AACC. Here are a few examples to provide ideas for your college.

- Virginia Western Community College has created Navigating Virginia Western Community College: A Guide for Ageless Learners. This 12-page step-by-step guide offers advice to help plus 50 students understand the process for enrollment, directs them to guidance and support services, and provides checklists to help.
Grays Harbor College has created a Web page for its Plus 50 program. The page encourages potential students to contact a plus 50 career coach and provides contact information.

Middlesex Community College has created a Web page for its Plus 50 program with an easy-to-remember URL: mxcc.edu/plus50/. Talk to your college website administrator to see if you can do this!

**Resources for Health Care Training Programs**

This free online course helps community health workers learn how to prevent falls. The course, Preparing Community Health Workers and Promotores to Prevent and Reduce Falls Among Older Adults, helps students assess fall hazards and advises them in how to assist patients in reducing their risk of falling. The course is provided by the Carolina Geriatric Education Center, which is led by the UNC Center for Aging and Health.

The *Nurse’s Guide to Preventive Medicine, Education and Health Literacy* provides a wealth of health care links on a variety of topics. The resources are not ranked, but they have the potential to be highly useful for new or student nurses hoping to make preventive medicine, patient education, and health literacy core tenets of their healthcare careers.

**New to Twitter? Get Our List of Influencers Talking about College Completion and Adult Students**

If you are new to Twitter and want to see what others are saying on college completion and adult students, here are a few accounts to follow:

- AACC: @Comm_College
- Adult College Completion Network: @ACCNetwork
- Complete College America: @CompleteCollege
- Evollution: @EvoLLLution
- Goal 2025: @Goal2025
- Graduate Network: @TheGradNetwork
- Higher Ed Insight: @HigherEdInsight
- Lumina Foundation: @LuminaFound
- MoveEd: @Move_Ed

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**
A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education
This annual report from the Lumina Foundation offers detailed data that describe degree attainment at the national, state, and county levels. According to the report, A Stronger Nation through Higher Education, 39.4% of working-age Americans (ages 25–64) held a 2- or 4-year college degree in 2012—the most recent year for which data are available. That figure is up from 2011, when the rate was 38.7%, and from 2008, when the rate was 37.9%. The 0.7% rise from 2011 to 2012 reflects the largest year-over-year increase since 2008. The report also provides degree attainment data for each of the nation’s 100 most populous metropolitan regions. If you would like to share information with partners or others in your college, state reports and an infographic are available.

Resources and Reform: Thinking Through the Costs of a Developmental Math Redesign
What college resources are required to implement a statewide redesign of developmental mathematics? This 28-slide presentation looks at the most significant costs for colleges implementing a math redesign in Virginia, drawing on interviews with faculty, administrators, and staff. It also highlights several considerations for policymakers planning for large-scale instructional reform.

“No Longer the Stepchild of U.S. Education, Community Colleges Fill a Vital Need for Skilled Workers”
Efforts to align America’s education system more closely with the needs of the 21st-century workplace are gaining momentum, and America’s community colleges are leading the way, says this Businessweek article. The author cites programs at Chattanooga State Community College, Cape Fear Community College and Chemekata Community College as examples. The author notes, “Community colleges are typically not party schools; they’re schools for the working woman and the working man. We need to treat them as valuable assets.”
PLUS 50 TRENDS

Older Adults and Technology Use
Older adults have historically been late adopters to the world of technology compared to their younger compatriots, but their movement into digital life continues to deepen, says this report released in April by the Pew Research Internet Project. Today, 59% of seniors report they go online—a six-percentage point increase in the course of a year—and 47% say they have a high-speed broadband connection at home. In addition, 77% of older adults have a cell phone, up from 69% in April 2012. The proportion of older adults who own either a tablet or an e-reader is actually larger than the proportion owning a smartphone. Some 27% of seniors own a tablet, an e-reader, or both, while 18% own a smartphone. Today, 46% of online seniors (representing 27% of the total older adult population) use social networking sites such as Facebook, and these social network adopters have more persistent social connections with the people they care about.