AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Oakton to Offer Open House, Intro Classes, Fundraiser,” Skokie Review, August 7, 2014
- “Jobs Training Available at PHCC,” Patrick Henry Community College (press release), August 5, 2014
- “Richland Offers More Training for Older Workforce,” Herald-Review, August 1, 2014

Colleges Gearing Up for Fall 2014

Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) held information sessions on August 4 and August 11 to help potential plus 50 students. A Web page about the project points out that adults may be able to earn credit for life or workplace experiences and may not be starting from square one. Adults who mention the plus 50 program when registering will be referred to a specific enrollment contact. NVCC is part of the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program.

An open house and early registration program was held for plus 50 students at Roanoke-Chowan Community College on August 13. The event was promoted on the college’s Facebook page and used plus 50 branded images.

Lansing Community College is holding a “Plus 50 Job Seeker Workshop” on August 26 to assist plus 50 workers. The workshop is designed to provide targeted information to the “experienced” job seeker on the job search, labor market information, and more. See the flyer.
A **free Encore Plus 50 Boot Camp** is being offered by Brookdale Community College over three sessions in September, October, and November. Boot camp attendees will receive an overview of Brookdale and all the services available; a thorough grounding in college skills such as critical thinking, test taking, and computer literacy; and time management tips to help the plus 50 student juggle work, family, and other obligations.

El Camino College is offering a **computer basics boot camp** in early October that is designed to help plus 50 adults. In just three meetings, planners promise that students will absorb ALL the basics, including using Microsoft Windows and Word, saving files, sending e-mail, surfing the Internet, downloading, and more!

**Lessons from the Field: Colleges Offer Tips on Offering Learner Support Services**

Community colleges in the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program submitted their progress reports to AACC. A tradition of the Plus 50 program is sharing tips and great ideas among colleagues. Below are some comments and approaches from community colleges in the program for offering learner support services, one of the **Standards of Excellence** for plus 50 programs. We will feature more tips in our next newsletter.

- **Virginia Western Community College** provides workshops to prepare plus 50 learners for the Virginia Placement Test. Faculty members provide tips and individual diagnostic support in basic and advanced math, as well as English.

- Plans are underway at North Carolina’s Edgecombe Community College (ECC) for academic advising to review individual graduation plans with plus 50 students. The review will map out classes for future semesters, discuss the importance of enrolling in appropriate courses, and explain the steps to reaching a certificate or degree in their program of study. Career counseling services for plus 50 students at ECC will involve completion of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, an interest profiler, a basic skills survey, a transferrable skills checklist, a work values sorter, and career key.

- **Middlesex Community College** provides intensive workshops in math and English for college readiness to review math, reading, and writing skills prior to enrollment in classes. At the beginning of the workshops, students take a basic skills assessment test to determine their skill level. After completing the 2-week workshops, students retake the basic skills assessment test. This opportunity allows the student to place directly into college-level classes without having to enroll in a developmental class to refresh skills.
Patrick Henry Community College has started a Plus 50 Peer Group. The group provides networking opportunities for plus 50 students and an ongoing focus group for the college's Plus 50 Program. Through input from the group, the college has gotten feedback and tips on ways to make the campus a more inviting place for plus 50 learners. Suggestions have included developing an acronym guide, campus tour groups for new plus 50 students, enhancing the clarity of audio/visual set-ups; changes in approaches used in the math and English labs and a short, focused course on patient/customer service skills for students in health care training programs.

St. Petersburg College has hired a plus 50 student as a program assistant. Located in the Health Education Center, the program assistant provides tutoring services, mentors fellow plus 50 students, guides students towards needed resources, and personally goes with students to visit individuals or departments so they can acclimate to the campus.

South Arkansas Community College provides an 8-hour basic computer course that is open to all. Their first course filled 3 days after registration opened. Sensitive to “free” being perceived as lower in value, the student fee for the course was $60. But, it was made available at no cost to those over age 50. This approach kept a level of value attached to the course. Often when free, students at the last minute do not attend. The course also served as an effective vehicle to collect responses to the college’s Plus 50 Needs Assessment survey. The participants age 50 and older felt a sense of obligation for the free course and they completed the survey while there.

**Video: Plus 50 at Santa Fe College**

This [promotional video by Santa Fe College](#) profiles its health sciences program tour for prospective students. The video includes an interview with a potential plus 50 student who had not considered a career in healthcare prior to the tour.

**Stay Informed on the New Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. The majority of the WIOA provisions will become effective on July 1, 2015, the first full program year after enactment. To help institutions and interested individuals stay informed as implementation of the act progresses, the U.S. Department of Labor has announced the establishment of a [WIOA Resource Page](#) to serve as the on-line repository for the department's WIOA implementation materials.
Interesting Articles for Your Plus 50 Newsletter
If your program publishes a newsletter for plus 50 students, supporters, and potential students, you are probably often seeking content. Here are a few links to interesting articles that you can highlight and share with your readers.

“Become Indispensable! 12 Certainties that Will Impact Your Career Now and in the Future” – By bestselling author Daniel Burrus, this article explains how technology will impact a variety of jobs in the near future and why at any age, we have to be willing to upgrade our skills and knowledge. A link to further information on the 12 certainties is also provided.

“Age Discrimination” – This article provides an overview of age discrimination in the workplace and offers tips to help workers.

“Resume Tips for Baby Boomers” – This article offers advice on how to improve your resume with a focus on the career transitions and life changes that many baby boomers are experiencing.

“10 Tips for Downsizing Baby Boomers” – The Chicago Tribune offers tips for plus 50 adults seeking to downsize their possessions in this helpful article.

“50 Over 50: The Risk Takers” – Huffington Post profiles 50 inspiring people who re-invented themselves after turning 50 and are following their dreams.

“8 Time Management Tips for Adult College Students” – This article provides helpful advice for adult college students on how to improve their time management skills.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Award Credit Through Prior Learning Assessment
Lumina Foundation's Strategy Labs has released an online resource that looks at some of the research on the assessment of prior learning and includes examples from several states that have adopted statewide policies to better serve adult learners. Prior learning assessment can be an important part of a completion strategy for colleges.
LEARNING

Compilation of Articles on Educating Nontraditional Students
Inside Higher Ed recently compiled a series of articles on educating nontraditional students. The articles offer strategies for recruiting, retaining, and graduating nontraditional students. The articles involve a wide range of institutions, completion, the use of technology, and different curricular approaches. The article collection is available for free. Registration is required.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

“What Works in Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence”
The number of young workers aged 22–34 nationwide is basically unchanged since 2007, while the number of jobs for baby boomers (55–64)—fueled by mega population growth—has climbed 9% over that time, according to a new analysis from EMSI and CareerBuilder. This article includes links to interactive maps where you can examine the data.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

Infographic: The Differing Online Habits of Millennials and Baby Boomers
This infographic compares and contrasts the online behavior and habits of baby boomers, Generation X, and the millennials.