AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “A New Age: Local Groups Provide Resources, Advocacy for Cleveland’s Older Workers,” *Freshwater Cleveland*, September 25, 2014
- “Special Job Fair This Friday for Those 50 and Older,” *KVOA*, September 16, 2014
- “Report: Community Colleges Succeeding With Students Over 50,” *Education Dive*, September 15, 2014
- “ACC Selected as Plus 50 Champion College,” Arapahoe Community College (press release), September 10, 2014
- “Celebrate Community College Week September 15-22,” West Shore Community College (press release), September 9, 2014

For Plus 50: Mission Accomplished!
In only 4 years, 17 community colleges have helped nearly 21,000 baby boomers go to college in order to get a job, according to a new evaluation of the Plus 50 Completion Strategy, managed by AACC. Funded by *Lumina Foundation*, the colleges have assisted 20,514 baby boomers participating in workforce training programs and inspired 8,877 (43% of...
the program participants) to complete degrees or credentials to improve their employability. Initially, program organizers aimed to help 9,000 adult students and have 3,600 of them (40%) complete credentials during the 4-year grant period. But the colleges participating in the program reached and exceeded those goals 2 years ago in 2012. Their early success motivated them to help more baby boomers seeking to improve their job market competitiveness and finish degrees or certificates. Read more in Community College Daily.

Lessons from the Field: Colleges Offer Tips on Offering Professional Development for Faculty
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 professional development for faculty, one of the Standards of Excellence for plus 50 programs. We will feature more tips in our next newsletter.

- Arapahoe Community College (Colorado) plans to publish a bibliography of print and online resources on the unique needs of adult learners on the college’s portal which houses resources for faculty and staff.

- Northeast Alabama Community College’s Plus 50 Encore Completion Coordinator is working with the college’s quality enhancement committee to incorporate training for faculty and staff on plus 50 student advising into their plan.

- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College provided professional development training to faculty and staff on plus 50 student learning styles and offered suggestions and ideas on effective teaching approaches.

Video: Southern Arkansas University Tech Student in Video, Film, and Graphic Design Shares His Story
Brett Thomas, a plus 50 student at Southern Arkansas University Tech, discusses losing his job in January 2012. He earned his GED and earned a 2-year scholarship to the community college. He earned an associate degree and technical certificate in film and video, and a technical certificate in graphic design. He plans to use his education to assist his faith community. He said that going back to college was rough at times, but some of the students helped him overcome the fear of doing something new. He encourages other plus 50 adults to pursue their dreams. He attended Southern Arkansas University Tech, a participant in the Plus 50 Completion Strategy program, organized by AACC. Watch the video.

Student Story Profiles: Want to See Your College’s Plus 50 Program
Featured Online?
Would you like to see your college’s students and their successes featured on YouTube like Ivy Tech Community College, Lake Region State College, Seminole State College of Florida, Southern Arkansas University Tech, or so many other colleges? Grantee colleges for the Plus 50 Initiative can sign up with Mary Sue Vickers to receive our easy-to-use flip digital camera. You can record one or more student story profiles using our helpful questions and mail the camera back to us. Footage is edited into student story videos that we place on our Plus 50 Initiative YouTube channel to share with participating colleges. Sometimes our videos are also featured by media partners, Community College Daily, or your college. Many community colleges have also found that sharing student stories is a highly effective recruitment tool for baby boomers.

Generations United Seeks Best Intergenerational Communities
There’s no place like home—especially if you live in a community that offers opportunities for every generation. Sound like your community? An intergenerational community is not just one where multiple generations reside. It is one where individuals of all ages are an integral and valued part of the setting. This perspective is reflected in the families, structures, facilities, and services that children, youth, and older adults encounter in the community as well as in day-to-day interactions and relationships. You can apply for a MetLife/Generations United Best Intergenerational Communities Award. Application deadline is October 15, 2014.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

“Second Start Program Gives Students a Second Chance to Enroll”
The Second Start program at Louisiana’s Delgado Community College allows any student who misses the original course enrollment deadline to enroll in an accelerated 8-week course (16-week courses are standard) later in the semester. The courses cover the same material, but meet more often and for longer sessions. Because many Delgado students also work full time, hybrid courses that include a combination of online learning and class time were created to ensure students don’t have to be on campus for double the time to accommodate the shorter 8-week term. Read more about how the college implemented this program to support college completion in AACC’s 21st Century Center.
LEARNING

“Nine Strategies to Spark Adult Students' Intrinsic Motivation”
Students, particularly adult students, become motivated when they see value in what they are working toward—when the work they are putting forth is clearly in line with their ultimate values or ideals. This article from Faculty Focus offers nine strategies to help instructors tap into the intrinsic motivations of their adult students and engage them in learning.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

“Adding Value to Higher Ed”
Higher education in the U.S. may not be perfect, but education experts emphasize that earning short- or long-term credentials provide an opportunity for success, especially with regards to employment. The value of higher education, particularly with regard to labor market outcomes, was the focus of a conference in Washington, DC, last week held by the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE). Experts in postsecondary education, policy and practice led discussions on performance-based accountability, college affordability and improving economic outcomes for students. Read more in Community College Daily.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

Boomers Featured in New PBS Television Series
Baby boomers are being featured on a new PBS series named American Masters: The Boomer List that premiered September 23 on PBS. The hour-and-a-half weekly shows will tell the story of this influential generation through the lives of 19 iconic boomers—one born each year of the baby boom. Boomers featured in this series will include New Age guru Deepak Chopra (b. 1947), singer-songwriter Billy Joel (b. 1949), fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger (b. 1951), author Amy Tan (b. 1952), actor Kim Cattrall (b. 1956), environmentalist Erin Brockovich (b. 1960), and artist David LaChapelle (b. 1963). Check your local PBS station listings for broadcast information.