AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Prairie State College Names Kelly Lapetino Dean of Corporate and Continuing Education,” eNews Park Forest, October 6, 2014
- “HCC Holds Plus 50 Program Open House,” The Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald, October 6, 2014
- “Training Offered to 50-Plus Residents,” The Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald, September 25, 2014

Lessons from the Field: Colleges Offer Tips on Developing Community Partnerships

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 developing community partnerships, one of the Standards of Excellence for plus 50 programs.

- In Ohio, Terra State Community College’s AmeriCorps volunteers are serving as completion coaches for plus 50 students.
• Virginia Western Community College collaborates with a local community-based organization that provides more than 60 free computer courses. The local Goodwill Industries provides 2-hour introductory, basic, and intermediate level computer classes that plus 50 students can participate in.

• Broome Community College (NY) is connecting with another initiative in its local area - the Binghamton Opportunity Center, which is proposing to provide refresher courses in literacy, mathematics, and computer skills.

• Phoenix College (AZ) has been successful in receiving contributed equipment from employers for its medical programs, reducing the demand on clinical sites for placement. The college’s medical laboratory assisting/histology programs received donated equipment to be used in a simulation center being created for student practice. Employers and community partners have also supported the design of a new simulation “hospital” for use by nursing students.

• El Camino College (CA) offers a free computer boot camp for plus 50 students enrolling in pharmacy technician and medical billing and coding workforce training programs. In response to El Camino’s press release on its combined computer courses/health care training programs, the director of the Workforce Investment Bureau asked the college to include the program in the Public Training Provider Directory. Pending approval by the El Camino College Board, an application will be submitted for inclusion on the training provider list, making Workforce Investment Act funding a possibility for plus 50 students who may be eligible.

National Summit on the Redesign of Developmental Education
AACC will host the National Summit on the Redesign of Developmental Education, February 1–3, 2015, in Washington, DC. The summit will be a major next step in helping colleges understand the research on high-impact practices shown to improve outcomes for incoming college students who are not college-ready. The design of the event calls for the engagement of teams of five members from 25 colleges currently at work on redesign efforts. More details are available online. Contact Angel Royal to apply.

Free Webinar: What is Competency-Based Education, and How Can It Improve Workforce Development?
College for America is offering a free 1-hour webinar discussing competency-based education (CBE). Presenters will discuss what types of institutions can use CBE, how it can be used to address labor market
needs, how CBE can advance a workforce development strategy, and which companies are successfully using CBE in practice. The webinar will be held October 30 at 12:00 p.m. (ET).

Video: Pharmacy Technician Program at Seminole State College is an Option for Plus 50 Students
Since the pharmacy profession began expanding several years ago, Dr. Nagi Youssef, program manager for the pharmacy technician program at Seminole State College of Florida, says the college is trying to recruit more people into pharmacy technology careers. He says they are stable jobs that make a great fit for students age 50 and up. Dr. Youssef says it is not that difficult for plus 50 students to come back to school for training and work in pharmacy technology. He says that the college offers significant support for plus 50 students. The college offers two programs: a certificate and an associate degree. Watch the video on AACC’s Plus 50 YouTube channel.

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.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

“Five Reasons PLA Should Be on Your Radar”
Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) awards college credit for an individual’s learning and knowledge, gained outside of the traditional classroom. It has become an increasingly visible part of the national college completion agenda, with broad efforts under way in several states to award credit when and where it is due. This article offers five reasons why PLA should be a significant strategy for colleges seeking to raise completion rates.
LEARNING

“Infographic: Back to School: Adult Education Facts and Figures”
This infographic explores adult education facts and figures in a graphic way. It includes data for plus 50 adults earning associate or bachelor’s degrees. It also explores the reasons adults go to college and the financial benefits of earning a degree.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

What About Certificates? Evidence on the Labor Market Returns to Non-Degree Community College Awards in Two States
Earning a vocational certificate in one year or less can raise earnings significantly, says a forthcoming study from the Community College Research Center at Columbia University’s Teachers College. Researchers measured the wages of former students who earned short-term certificates from community colleges in Virginia and North Carolina. The researchers found both an earnings bump and a higher likelihood of employment for short-term certificate holders. For example, students in North Carolina earned an average of $1,172 more per year with a certificate of one year or less. They were 7% more likely to have a job. Those numbers were $888 and 3% for certificate holders in Virginia. The researchers recommend the visibility of certificate programs at community colleges be improved, especially for adult learners. See the PowerPoint presentation with the data and read about the study in Inside Higher Ed.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

“Five Ways Baby Boomer Job Seekers Can Build an Online Presence”
Sometimes employers and recruiters need to see that job candidates are online and tech-savvy. This article from U.S. News & World Report offers tips to help baby boomers demonstrate their technical prowess online. Nearly half of the 2,000-plus hiring managers and human resources professionals surveyed by JobVite in 2013 said they hired a candidate because they got a good sense of his or her personality via social media and could see the person being a good fit with the company culture. Tips for job seekers include Googling yourself, building a LinkedIn profile, creating a Google Plus account, posting online comments and reviews, and setting up a Google alert for yourself.