AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Plus 50 Adults at Santa Fe College,” Adult College Completion Network, December 3, 2014
- “EICC Offers Program for Plus 50 Learners,” Quad City Times, November 24, 2014
- “Plus 50 Career Workshops Scheduled at Middlesex College,” Middlesex County College (press release), November 24, 2014

New Year’s Resolutions for Plus 50 Program Managers
Are you managing a plus 50 program at a community college? Do you want to work smarter, not harder, next year? Here’s a great idea for a New Year’s resolution: familiarize yourself with C-PAD and the many resources available to support your plus 50 program that are available through AACC and its website for the Plus 50 Initiative. Why create something new when there is already a resource or template to help? If you are working on building your program, look at the resources available in C-PAD or on the website to see if someone else has faced the same challenge or already accomplished a similar task.

Scholarships to Watch
The Adult Students in Scholastic Transition (ASIST) scholarship is available to adults facing economic, social, or physical challenges, who are looking to improve their situation through educational opportunities.
Local chapters of Executive Women International (EWI) partner with educational providers and social services agencies to identify potential ASIST candidates. Students first apply and compete at the local chapter level. Chapter-level winners are submitted to the corporate level for the opportunity to be selected for one of 13 scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. Applications will be available in January 2015.

The Cherokee Uniforms 2015 A Nurse I Am Scholarship applications are due March 1, 2015. Applicants are required to watch a film and write an essay to respond to a question about building rapport with patients and their family members.

The Army Nurse Corps Association offers scholarships to support nursing education. A variety of circumstances are eligible, including active duty service members, veterans, and their relatives. Applications are due March 31, 2015.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

_Holding Tight or at Arm’s Length: How Higher Education Regional Accrediting Bodies Address PLA_

In this research brief from the Council for Adult & Experiential Learning, the authors explore the role of regional accrediting organizations in shaping institutional prior learning assessment (PLA) policies and practices. They found that all six regional accrediting bodies reference experiential or prior learning assessment in their policies or guidelines. All of the accrediting bodies require that prior experiential learning be comparable to the results of institutionally provided learning experiences, but there are noticeable differences. Some of the policies leave most of the decisions on PLA up to the institution, while others are more prescriptive.

LEARNING

“Three ‘Wise Interventions’ for Adult Learners”

“Wise interventions” are small, seemingly simple ways of adjusting a student’s feelings and beliefs that can yield tremendous positive outcomes, says this 2014 article from _Inside Track_. Strength in other areas of life can be an adult’s greatest weakness when transitioning to life as a student. Creating multiple opportunities throughout their degree program to discover the deeper meaning behind their initial reasons for enrolling—a better life for their family, improving the chances that their
kids attend college, being an inspirational role model to their community, or building a life with choices and meaningful work—can help students stay connected to their internal drive. Adult students also need to articulate to loved ones why they’re less available and often need to ask for their help along the way.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

“Mind the Gap...Between Grad Skills and Employer Expectations”
This article on the website for the New England Journal of Higher Education summarizes the ongoing debate over the skills gap and whether higher education institutions are adequately preparing students with the skills needed in the workplace. The author concludes that there is a skills gap that is highly localized and likely to grow quickly as technology continues to evolve and expand.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

“LGBT Baby Boomers Face Tough Retirement Hurdles”
This Associated Press story discusses the challenges gay baby boomers face as they approach their retirement years. Many are not able to access benefits available to heterosexual couples, or have not saved enough for retirement.