AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 In the News

- “Plus 50 Encore College Completion Program Info Session,” College of Southern Maryland (press release), April 9, 2015
- “MCC Hosting Open House for Plus 50 Students,” Surf Ky, March 26, 2015
Cedar Valley College Partners with Women’s Bureau to Host 50+ Women to Work: Ready, Set, Employed
An informational session, "50+ Women to Work: Ready, Set, Employed," was held on April 7 at Cedar Valley College with more than 80 women in attendance. The event was planned and hosted by the Plus 50 program at the Lancaster, Texas College in conjunction with the Dallas Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Women’s Bureau. The college president delivered opening remarks and the event highlighted resources to help older women re-enter the workforce. Attendees received an overview of job training available at the college. A variety of partners participated, including AARP, Goodwill Industries, YWCA, and a health care employer. The event was featured in a Department of Labor newsletter.

Blue Ridge Community College Recruits Plus 50 Students to Its Human Services Program
Plus 50 students Desiree White and Dale Moyer share their experiences going to college in a new video by Blue Ridge Community College. “Everybody here was geared to helping me,” said White. “I can’t speak highly enough about the staff at Blue Ridge,” said Moyer. A 30-second version of the video is also running on a local ABC affiliate.

Grant Opportunity: Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program
The Office of Family Assistance in the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) recently announced it is accepting applications for its Health Profession Opportunity Grants program. This program provides education and training to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals. Institutions of higher education are listed as eligible applicants for this grant opportunity. All funded grantees
are required to coordinate with the respective agencies responsible for administering state TANF programs, local workforce investment boards, state workforce investment boards, and state apprenticeship agencies. Applications are due May 29, 2015.

Resource: “Re-Enroll Adults with Some College and No Degree”
This article from Strategy Labs at the Lumina Foundation discusses strategies states can use to successfully re-enroll in postsecondary education adults with some college and no degree. The article provides an overview of a variety of adult college completion efforts.

Webinar: Catalyzing a National Adult College Completion Movement: Lessons from the Graduate! Network
The Adult College Completion Network will hold a free webinar on April 21 at 3:00 p.m. (ET) on “Catalyzing a National Adult College Completion Movement: Lessons from the Graduate! Network.” Speakers will discuss the network’s model for building and growing local collaborations to support adult learners. You can sign up online.

Webinar: High Costs, Uncertain Benefits: What Do Americans Without a College Degree Think About Postsecondary Education?
What do adults without a college degree know about postsecondary education? Do they know how much tuition costs? Do they recognize the potential benefits of completing a degree or certificate? Join this April 20 webinar, at 12:30 p.m. (ET), for a first look at new survey results. Organized by the American Enterprise Institute, the discussion will shed light on how adults without a postsecondary degree view the costs and benefits of going to college, and a panel of higher education experts will respond.

For Your Plus 50 Newsletter: Articles and Ideas You Can Share with Plus 50 Adults

50+ Women: Take Control of Your Money – Next Avenue
Managing your financial future can start today. Get tips on financial fitness, retirement investing and more.

7 Baby Boomer Housing Trends to Watch – U.S. News & World Report
The author highlights trends in housing for plus 50 adults—including renovations and walkable neighborhoods—and their wish lists may not include traditional retirement communities.

Should We Work Forever? – Brookings Institute
This article discusses baby boomers working past traditional retirement age and how our ideas about work, productivity, and aging are evolving.

Older Women and Work – U.S. Department of Labor
This fact sheet discusses statistics on older women and employment, retirement security and supports.

**Finding a Job After 50 – Huffington Post**

Interview tips, job hunting advice, and banishing job hunting blues are part of this series of articles designed to pump up and embolden baby boomers seeking employment.

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**

**COMPLETION**

**A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education**

Lumina Foundation issued its annual report on U.S. progress toward Goal 2025, which aims to have high-quality postsecondary credentials in the hands of 60% of Americans by the year 2025. The metric used by Lumina Foundation to track progress toward Goal 2025 is the higher education attainment rate of working-age residents—those between the ages of 25 and 64. The source of this data is the American Community Survey of the U.S. Census. By this measure, the U.S. higher education attainment rate is 40%. This is a modest increase over last year’s rate of 39.4%. Since 2008, the U.S. higher education attainment rate has increased by 2.1 percentage points. This represents an increase of more than 2.8 million degrees over the expected total. This progress is not nearly sufficient to reach Goal 2025. There are two issues that must be addressed: closing the significant and persistent gaps in postsecondary attainment among various segments of the population, and accelerating the rate at which overall attainment increases.

**LEARNING**

**Learning for Life: The Opportunity for Technology to Transform Adult Education**

This report shares findings from a national survey on the role and potential of technology in adult education. The authors define the “adult education system” as those programs serving adults who are not college-ready. However, the wider themes uncovered by the research regarding enthusiasm for increased use of technology may be of interest to those serving adult learners in any capacity. The report was written by Tyton Partners and funded by the Joyce Foundation.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

**The Long Road Back: Struggling to Find Work After Unemployment**

This AARP publication summarizes the results of a survey examining how unemployment has affected people ages 45 to 70 over the past 5 years. The primary focus is on the reemployed—the people who managed to find
jobs—their job search strategies and the quality of the jobs they found. Older job seekers who were out of work at some point in the last 5 years found that tapping their network of contacts, reaching out to employers directly and starting their job search immediately rather than taking a break tended to be more successful. Yet for many others, the study found that a substantial number of older workers continue to feel the prolonged effects of bleak job prospects. Learn more in this blog post.

PLUS 50 TRENDS

Gauging Aging: Mapping the Gaps Between Expert and Public Understandings of Aging in America

This interesting research study examines what experts assume and think about aging versus the public’s perception. The cultural-cognitive approach taken by the researchers is powerful because identifying ways of thinking is key to developing more effective and strategic communication. There were many gaps in communication and perception highlighted in the study. For example, experts argue that the older years bring new opportunities and capacities for growth, contribution and self-expression while the public sees the aging process as an obstacle to be overcome. The varying perceptions are also discussed in this Huffington Post article. By understanding the various ways that people are, and are not able, to think and reason about an issue, communicators can craft messages that avoid unproductive understandings, activate productive ones, and elevate new ways of thinking.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree granting institutions and more than 13 million students. AACC promotes community colleges through five strategic action areas: recognition and advocacy for community colleges; student access, learning, and success; community college leadership development; economic and workforce development; and global and intercultural education. Information about AACC and community colleges may be found at www.aacc.nche.edu.