What's New

Plus 50 Initiative in the News


Student Story: A Consultant Finds His Passion at 61

Don't let his title as a consultant for the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance fool you. He's really into picking up the pen and writing. And thanks to courses at community college, Tom Rhodes aims to be published. "I've always fancied myself a writer. Poetry, stories, anything related to paper and pencil, I do," said Tom Rhodes, a plus 50 student at Wake Technical Community College in North Carolina. "I am a commercial illustrator by trade but have gone to work for the Department of Environmental Assistance as a consultant," said Rhodes. "My real passion lies, however, in writing." Read more of Tom’s story.

Call For 2011 AACC Annual Convention Events Is Now Open

AACC’s call for convention events is officially open, and AACC is ready to receive your session proposals. Share with your colleagues your expertise, innovations and research. Learning from peers is one of the top three reasons people attend AACC’s annual convention each year. Get started by visiting the AACC Web site to view evaluation criteria, session tracks, types of sessions and other resources. A strong emphasis will be placed on proposals that address the completion agenda. The call will close Sept. 20, 2010.
Plus 50 Initiative Conference Resources: Online Presentation by Richard W. Johnson
One of the highlights of the Plus 50 Initiative annual conference this year was a presentation by Richard Johnson from the Urban Institute. Called “Retired Vs. Rehired: Employment Challenges and Opportunities at Older Ages,” the presentation is available on the AACC Web site. The presentation’s charts and graphs paint a comprehensive portrait of plus 50 adults and retirement.

Webinar Series Available to Support Plus 50 Programs at Community Colleges
The entire webinar series offered by the Plus 50 Initiative is available on the Plus 50 Initiative Web site. The webinars cover the following topics: an introduction to plus 50 programs, using assessment tools, working with stakeholders, promoting your program, understanding adult learner needs, and creating and sustaining your program for adult learners. The webinar presentations are available in Flash and Windows Media formats. The PowerPoint presentations and questions and answers from the series are available to help community colleges. AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative will be hosting additional webinars this fall. Stay tuned for more information.

The Affordable Care Act: Protecting Consumers and Putting Patients Back in Charge
This fact sheet, The Affordable Care Act: Protecting Consumers and Putting Patients Back in Charge of Their Care, offers advice to consumers about the new health-care legislation recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. An appeals process allows consumers to appeal decisions by health-care providers to deny health-care claims.

Snapshot on Retirement Planning: Now Available in Spanish
The Employee Benefits Security Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor unveiled new retirement savings tools in Spanish. The publication, “Como Resolver el Misterio de la Planificacion de su Jubilacion,” offers a simplified, bottom-line approach for calculating how much people need in order to retire and helps them plan how to get there. The companion online interactive worksheets and guide will help people perform calculations to demystify retirement planning.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program
LEARNING
“The Older Language Learner”
Older adults may be stereotyped as poor language learners, but that’s hardly the case, says writer Mary Schleppegrell in this article for the National Teaching and Learning Forum. She argues that while older learners may need to address vision or hearing loss issues, the age of the adult learner is not a factor in language acquisition. Exercises such as oral drills and memorization, which rely on short-term memory, may discriminate against the adult learner. Adults learn best not by rote, but by integrating new concepts and material into already existing cognitive structures. Providing opportunities for learners to work together, focusing on understanding rather than producing language, and reducing the focus on error correction can build learners’ self-confidence and promote language learning.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING
“50+ Entrepreneur”
Are your plus 50 students thinking about becoming entrepreneurs? An AARP study on self-employment by the RAND Corporation found that about one in three self-employed workers ages 51 to 69 made the transition to self-employment at or after age 50. This Web site is loaded with resources to help aspiring entrepreneurs age 50 and up. It lists five reasons for starting a business at age 50, and identifies six risks entrepreneurs take. Resources and other information can help small business entrepreneurs prepare to take the plunge.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE
Change Ahead: The 2004 Nonprofit Executive Leadership and Transitions Survey
More than 72% of all nonprofit leaders are baby boomers, according to the 2004 Nonprofit Executive Leadership and Transitions Survey by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. During the next two decades, large numbers of today’s nonprofit plus 50 leaders will seek new roles or careers or retire. This impending leadership change poses significant challenges to the nonprofit sector. This two-page summary offers valuable information to get nonprofit leaders thinking about how the aging of today’s baby boomers will affect their organizations.

The American Association of Community Colleges is a national association representing close to 1,200 community, junior and technical colleges nationwide. Community colleges are the largest and fastest-growing sector of higher education, serving close to 12 million students each year.
AACC is headquartered in Washington, D.C. See www.aacc.nche.edu.

The Atlantic Philanthropies are dedicated to bringing about lasting changes in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. Atlantic focuses on four critical social problems: aging, disadvantaged children and youth, population health, and reconciliation and human rights. Programs funded by Atlantic operate in Australia, Bermuda, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States and Viet Nam. To learn more, please visit www.atlanticphilanthropies.org.

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