News From the Colleges

Century College’s Mary McKee Interviewed by USA Today
Mary McKee, who manages the Plus 50 Initiative program at Century College, was interviewed recently for a story in USA Today titled, “Boomers wanting to work past retirement age find limited options.” Published on August 11, 2010, the story examines the challenges facing baby boomers in the job market, who spend more time seeking work than younger workers and are coping with drained retirement accounts. Read the story online.

Student Story

A Plus 50 Student Finds Her Passion Helping Older Adults Go to College
Kaye Moon Winters remembers the day well. She was a new student at San Jacinto College. She was well over the traditional college freshman age of 18—39 years over, to be exact. “I was sitting in this class full of young people when suddenly I heard this uproarious laughter and someone said, ‘1947!! Who was born in 1947?’” said Moon Winters. “You can't imagine all the intimidating factors an older person has to face when they return to school.”

However, it was exactly that intimidation and fear that helped Moon Winters discover her self-proclaimed calling in life. While working at the college, "I was so struck by the body language of the many men and women who were coming to the college," said Moon Winters. "Students just like me. Not 18. Not dropped off by mom. Non-traditional."

“I read the body language of this group and I knew exactly how they felt. They knew they needed to make a move—a change in their lives—but were so terrified they didn't know where to begin,” said Moon Winters. “I saw all these people and thought, Oh my gosh! This is my calling. I know what I can do!” So Moon Winters spoke with college officials, and together they founded the “Never Too Late/Nunca Es Muy
Tarde” program at San Jacinto College Central. Read more of Kaye’s story.

What’s New

Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning: New Resource
The U.S. Department of Labor has put together a handy booklet called Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning. This online resource is helpful for anyone planning for retirement and encourages readers to save additional money for retirement. Helpful worksheets, charts that demonstrate savings plans, and plenty of tips and advice make this a useful tool for anyone to consult.

Pass It On!

The Plus 50 Initiative E-Newsletter: A Helpful Resource
Do you know someone who works with plus 50 students who might benefit from subscribing to the Plus 50 Initiative e-newsletter? Issued every two weeks, our newsletter is loaded with helpful information for educators and program administrators supporting plus 50 students as they return to college. Consider forwarding this newsletter to your friends and suggesting they subscribe using the “Forward to a Friend” link at the bottom. Users can also sign up online.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

Learning
Technology and the Older Learner: Where Are We Headed?
Have you ever wondered how to most effectively deliver technology education for older adults? In a video presentation, Tom Kamber, executive director of OATS (Older Adult Technology Services) takes a public-interest approach to technology and older learners. Kamber wants educators to pay attention to helping older adults learn how to use computers so they can transform their lives and to get past concerns about hardware. It's about what technology can do for people, not about learning how to use computer hardware. And that perspective should extend to public policy and programming priorities, in his opinion. Kamber says that using a personal touch when teaching technology is important and notes that just because automation is possible, that does not make it the most effective way to teach others. Kamber takes a big-picture perspective on the
impact technology will have as people age in the future and examines policy and funding issues. Questions and answers with attendees are included.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**
**Mature Workers Initiative**
A report by the National Association of Planning Councils summarizes activities by regional and local planning councils to help baby boomers who want to stay in the workplace as they age, find more meaningful work, and help nonprofit organizations. Planning councils from Texas, Oklahoma, New York, California, Virginia, Florida, Arizona and Wisconsin participated in compiling this report.

**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**
**“Make Room for Boomers: Charities Choose to Engage a Generation About to Turn 60”**
This article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy profiles organizations that reach out to engage aging and idealistic baby boomers in the call to give back to society. Efforts by Coming of Age, Peace Corps Encore, the Harvard School of Public Health, the MetLife Foundation, the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, the Corporation for National and Community Service, and others are profiled.

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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