What's New!

**Standards of Excellence Webinar Set For October 28**
Sign up for this training webinar to learn the promising practices required to build successful programs serving plus 50 adults. The webinar focuses on foundational elements developed over the last two years by participating colleges in AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative. Attend in the convenience of your own office 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. ET on October 28. Heather Ellison of St. Louis Community College, Paul Hutchison of Santa Fe College, and Donna Maves of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College will present solid ideas to take back to your team and implement. To receive an invitation to attend, e-mail Mary Sue Vickers.

**News From the Colleges**

**Workshop for Community College Administrators**
Joliet Junior College and Moraine Valley Community College (MVCC) will present “Rehire, Rewire, Re-Inspire: How to Engage the Plus 50 Student” at the annual conference for the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators. The workshop, presented by the affiliate/learning partner team of MVCC’s Linley White and Joliet’s Kelly Lapetino and Pam Abbott, will help colleges understand how to better serve plus 50 students’ needs. The conference theme is “Leading Illinois Back to Work, Sustaining Our Future.” Read the conference program.

**YouTube Video Helps Boost Hires of Plus 50 Adults at National Park Service**
In a YouTube video, National Park Service staff member Rhonda Schier discusses working with Western Dakota Technical College to develop an educational program for plus 50 students. The students get a behind-the-scenes look at operations in a cluster of national parks and learn how to prepare a ten-minute interpretive talk. The program gives students an advantage in hiring for volunteer and paid jobs within the National Park Service, because applicants have relevant experience. Schier says she loves to work with mid-life learners and finds them to be hard-working and eager to learn.

**Courses Featured This Fall at Plus 50 Colleges**
Get ideas for next semester by virtually touring the courses being offered by colleges participating in the Plus 50 Initiative.
Plus 50 News

Plus 50 Initiative in the News
“Lumina Funds Adult Degree Completion,” California Community Colleges, October 6, 2010
“CPTC to Help More Plus 50 Learners,” Suburban Times, October 5, 2010
“Keyboarding and Basic Computer Course at CF,” Central Florida College, September 30, 2010
“Lumina Announces Grants to Help Adults Complete Degrees,” Community College Times, September 29, 2010
“Lumina Foundation’s Adult Degree Completion Commitment Gives Millions of Recession-Battered Americans a ’Second Chance’ at Earning a Degree,” BusinessWire, September 29, 2010
“Public Invited to Learn About Ways to Give Back,” MyNC.com, September 29, 2010
“PHCC Encore Academy Offers Free Self-Improvement Seminars for the Plus 50 Student,” Pasco-Hernando Community College, September 23, 2010
“LCCC Initiative Targets Plus 50 Students” The Times Leader, September 16, 2010

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING
Washington State's Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Program (I-BEST)
Helping adult basic skills students succeed in college-level occupational programs can be challenging. To help these students, the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges developed the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST). In the I-BEST model, a basic skills instructor and an occupational instructor team teach occupational courses with integrated basic skills content, and students receive college-level credit for the occupational course work. Evaluators measured: (1) whether a student earned any college credit, (2) whether a student earned any occupational college credit, (3) the number of college credits a student earned, (4) the number of occupational college credits a student earned, (5) whether or not a student persisted to the following year after initial enrollment, (6) whether a student earned a certificate or degree, and (7) whether a student achieved point gains on basic skills tests. Researchers also examined two labor market outcomes: the change in wages for those who were employed both before and after program enrollment and the change in the number of hours worked after leaving the program.
**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

New Bureau of Labor Statistics Green Jobs Definition

If your college is working with green careers, then you’ll be glad to know that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has published a "green jobs" definition. The definition aids BLS in tracking hiring and salary ranges for green jobs throughout the country. These data can be compared to other occupations and will be published in reports and included in occupational projections. The end result will be additional information and data at a national and state level for colleges to help guide programming and marketing for green job training programs.

**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**

Civic Health of U.S. Strong in Times of Need, Report Shows

Released in September 2010, Civic Life in America reveals that the majority of Americans—nearly 125 million—turned toward problems and helped support their neighbors in need. The study measured how often Americans engage in political action, service, and social connectedness. The research suggests that civic participation does not happen in a vacuum—people involved in one area of community activity are more likely to be involved in others. Of citizens who frequently talk with their neighbors, about 33% also volunteer, compared to about 16% of people who do not talk with their neighbors. Likewise, people who volunteer are also more likely to vote, with over 78% of volunteers voting compared with only about 55% of nonvolunteers. Authorized under the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the Civic Health Assessment is the first-ever federal research on civic engagement. The research provides data on civic participation on the national level, all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and 51 of the largest metro areas in the United State. The “Get the Data” feature on the Web site allows you to compare and contrast baby boomers and older adults against other demographic groups.