News From the Colleges

Plus 50 Voices: Joliet Junior College Helps the Unemployed
In this YouTube video, Pam Abbott at Joliet Junior College discusses monthly workshops offered by the college to help out-of-work adults. She describes programs to help jobless workers create ageless resumes, strategize answers to hiring questions, and plan their job hunt. Helping unemployed workers find their way is important, notes Abbott, who meets many people seeking encouragement and hope amid the economic recession.

In the News

Plus 50 Initiative in the News
• “Boomers Back in Class”, Poughkeepsie Journal, November 7, 2010
• “What Are You Doing With the Rest of Your Life: Symposium for Retirees”, St. Louis Examiner, October 30, 2010
• Pathways Offers Class on Voice-over Opportunities, Central Florida College, October 25, 2010

Funding Update

Funding Opportunity Update: Community College and Career Training Program
AACC recently learned that the solicitation for grant applications for first-round Community College and Career Training Program (CCCTP) grants, originally expected in October 2010, will now likely be issued in December 2010. CCCTP is the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act program for community colleges and other institutions. It is funded with $2 billion from the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act. The solicitation’s delay does not indicate any difficulties with the program, nor are there any threats to its funding. Instead, the U.S. Department of Labor has decided to delay the solicitation’s release in an effort to secure legislative improvements, which AACC supports. Congress is currently out of session and does not return to Washington until the week of November 15.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program
Learning
Bridge Programs Offer Hope for the Nation’s Completion Agenda
Bridge programs to help adults succeed in postsecondary education are making headway and could be the key to meeting the completion agenda, according to Building a Higher Skilled Workforce: Results and Implications from the BridgeConnect National Survey, issued by the Workforce Strategy Center and funded by the Joyce Foundation. Bridge programs are a 21st-century idea for helping prepare low-skilled students for jobs that require more education. Known by many names—such as integrated education and training, contextualized learning, and embedded skills—bridge programs help students obtain the academic, employability, and technical skills they need to enter and succeed in postsecondary education and training and the labor market. Researchers examined 515 bridge programs in 345 communities nationwide. They found that 75% of bridge programs prepare people for job training in allied health fields. Other industries included administrative/office technologies, the construction trades, the energy sector, information technology, and manufacturing. Two thirds of the jobs in the U.S. economy will require a postsecondary credential by 2018, but millions of workers do not have the education and training needed to fill these jobs. Bridge programs are needed to educate and train them for the jobs of the future.

Training & Re-Training
Job Loss, Unemployment, and Older Workers
Economic recovery has been elusive for our nation and for plus 50 workers seeking new employment. The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the first monthly job increase since May, reporting that 151,000 nonfarm payroll jobs were added to the economy in October. In a video from the Urban Institute, Richard W. Johnson, director of its Program on Retirement Policy, discusses how older workers have fared in today’s turbulent economy, why employers have been hesitant to hire them, and how their plans to save for retirement have been affected.

Volunteering & Service
What Plus 50 Adults Get From Giving Back: A New Study
A recent study published in The Gerontologist examines the benefits of volunteering for plus 50 adults. More than 200 volunteers age 50 and up were surveyed for the study. They reported significant improvements in their mental health. Some also reported having greater feelings of productivity, increased social activity, and an overall sense that their lives had improved. Interestingly, volunteers of lower socioeconomic status reported more socioemotional benefits than did volunteers of higher socioeconomic status. A key finding in the study is that volunteers are far more likely to enjoy these positive benefits from their volunteer efforts if the volunteer organization they are working with gives them adequate training, ongoing support, and greater flexibility in choosing activities and schedules.

Happy Thanksgiving!
The next Ageless Learning e-newsletter will be published December 10, 2010. We want to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.
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.