News From the Plus 50 Colleges

Clover Park, Cape Cod, and Northeast Wisconsin Hold Events
Clover Park Technical College and its learning affiliate colleges in Pierce County (Pierce College, Bates Technical College, and Tacoma Community College) will hold “Re-careering @ 50+: Deciding What’s Next” on March 24, 2011. The conference is designed to help plus 50 adults make their next career move. Attendees will learn about the computer resources available to help their job searches. A plus 50-friendly employers’ panel and one-on-one career advice sessions will also be offered. Partners for the event include AARP, the Pierce County Library system, a business incubator, Pierce County Aging and Disability Resource, and other local retirement specialists.

A Career Changers Conference will be held in March 2011 at Cape Cod Community College (CCCC). The conference is free and is designed to help plus 50 adults who are considering a career change. The Career Changers Conference includes several workshops focused on exploring career options, assessing interests and abilities, and revising resumes. Information tables on emerging careers in health care, human services, early childhood education, and CCCC services for adult learners will be on site.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College held a Plus 50 Open House this week. The event featured the college’s Plus 50 program and highlighted programs and certificates available. Potential students were given advice about transferring credits and getting college credit for their life experiences. Technology use, resume writing, personal enrichment, and financial aid were also discussed. A plus 50 student panel let potential students hear from peers. About 20% of the college’s enrolled students are age 50 and up.

Plus 50 Advisory Committee Recognized With Award
Members of the Plus 50 Advisory Committee at Wake Technical Community College were singled out for their dedication with an award. The committee was recognized as the Continuing Education Advisory Committee of the Year at the College Advisory Dinner. The college president spoke about the hard work of the committee members. The committee meets quarterly to offer input into Wake Tech’s plus 50 programs and includes representatives from area senior centers, independent living centers, AARP, and college staff.
Nonprofit Management Certificate Program at Wake Tech
Working with the City of Raleigh, Wake Technical Community College developed a nonprofit management certificate program. Topics covered include grant management, public relations, strategic planning, fundraising, volunteer management, and partnerships and collaboration. Classes are affordable for nonprofit professionals and priced at $65 each. To earn the certificate, students must complete six courses. The program’s first class of students completed their certificates in December 2010.

Student Story

Plus 50 Voices: Prepare for Your Next Job
In this YouTube video, Joliet Junior College student Terry Bloome talks about going back to school. Bloome knows unemployment is coming his way, so he decided to upgrade his skills now so that he’s ready to get a new job. He enjoys taking computer courses at the community college and says that other students and instructors have helped him feel comfortable at college. He tells other baby boomers to prepare for the job market and increase their marketability by upgrading their skills.

What’s New

Purpose Prize Nominations Open Until March 31
Now in its sixth year, the $100,000 Purpose Prize provides recognition and funding to community leaders ages 60 and up who are creating new ways to solve society’s most pressing social issues. Past winners have worked on health care, the environment, poverty, and education issues. Nominations are due March 31, 2011. For more information, go to http://www.encore.org/prize.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

New Study Reconciles Conflicting Data on Mental Aging
A new look at tests of mental aging reveals a good news–bad news situation. The bad news is all mental abilities appear to decline with age, to varying degrees. The good news is the drops are not as steep as some research showed, according to a study published by the American Psychological Association. Study author Timothy Salthouse used longitudinal, rather than the previously used cross-sectional, studies to come to the conclusion. The study was published in the September 2010 issue of Neuropsychology.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

“The Growing Dilemma”
As baby boomers stay in the workplace longer, it's becoming increasingly common to find younger managers supervising older workers. This reversal of a traditional workplace hierarchy has led to conflict and challenges for both older workers and younger managers, according to a February 2011 article in Human Resources Executive Online. An incredible 88% of employers worry about hiring older workers because of such conflicts. The authors
examine the sources of these conflicts and offer management solutions. The writers note that older workers represent a tremendous asset to companies that want to succeed, and they encourage companies to take steps to address the generational divide and resolve communication barriers.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“How to Choose the Best Volunteering Option”
This U.S. News & World Report article examines several options for volunteering, from providing virtual help online, to donating your services full-time abroad. It also discusses the trend among baby boomers to volunteer and seek work that gives back to improve society. Finding the best volunteer fit for your interests and talents may take some research, but is well worth the rewards.

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.