What’s New

Grant Available: Green Jobs Innovation Fund, Applications Due March 29

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration recently announced the availability of $40 million in grant funds for the Green Jobs Innovation Fund. These grants will increase the number of individuals completing training programs who receive industry-recognized credentials and the number of individuals completing training programs for employment in green jobs. DOL plans to fund approximately 5–8 grants to national and statewide organizations with local affiliates with existing career training programs to provide technical and basic skills training that lead to green job opportunities in at least six communities per grant. With these grants, DOL is emphasizing critical steps along green career pathways by forging linkages between registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs and integrating the delivery of technical and basic skills training through community-based partnerships. Applicants are encouraged to view a pre-recorded webinar offering tips and information. Applications are due March 29, 2011, by 4pm EST.

Grant Available: Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grants Program, Applications Due March 31

DOL also announced the availability of up to $122 million in grant funds to be awarded under the Career Pathways Innovation Fund. Based on statutory requirements, at least $65 million of the total designated funds will be reserved for projects that focus on the health care sector. Four types of entities are eligible to apply as lead grantees: local workforce investment boards, individual community and technical colleges, community college districts, and state community college systems. DOL intends to fund approximately 40 to 50 grants ranging from $1 million to $5 million. In addition, approximately $6.25 million of the total appropriation will be reserved to award additional funding to support grantee efforts to conduct a third-party evaluation of grant activities. Applicants are encouraged to view a prospective application webcast offering tips and information. Applications are due March 31, 2011.
In the News

Plus 50 Initiative in the News

- “New program helps baby boomers stay or get back into the workforce,” Shoreline Area News, March 10, 2011
- “Older Students and Community Colleges” eHow, March 4, 2011
- “Plus 50 Completion Strategy Grants,” Instructional Technology Council, March 4, 2011

From the Experts

Plus 50 Voices: College Program Staff Discuss the Plus 50 Initiative
In this YouTube video, program staff from community colleges talk about the impact the Plus 50 Initiative is having on their services and programs for plus 50 students. Community colleges participating in the initiative created or expanded campus programs to engage the plus 50 population in learning; training or re-training programs; and volunteer, civic, or service activities. College staff participating in the Plus 50 Initiative reflect on what they've learned and how college services and programs can be tailored to the needs of older students. Staff featured work with plus 50 programs at Cape Cod Community College, Century College, Clark College, Clover Park Technical College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Santa Fe College, St. Louis Community College, and Western Dakota Technical College. Staff interviews were conducted in July 2010 during the Plus 50 Initiative Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.

Tips and Tools

Resources for Plus 50 Newsletters
Are you seeking resources to highlight in your college’s newsletter for baby boomers? Here are a few suggestions:

- “WISER’S ‘Too Good to be True’ Checklist,” Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement
- “Saving and Investing,” Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement
- “Protecting Your Income: Tips for Elders,” Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement
- “Job and Career Resources for Mature and Older Job Seekers,” Quintessential Careers
- “Baby Boomers Beware! Don’t Let Your Resume Date You,” Quintessential Careers
- “13 Best Job Sites for Baby Boomers,” Investing Answers
- “25 Best Jobs for Boomers,” CareerBuilder
- “Find a Place to Volunteer,” VolunteerMatch

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program
LEARNING

“Availability, Use and Value of Prior Learning Assessment within Community Colleges”
This report presents the findings of an exploratory study on how prior learning assessment (PLA) is used and viewed within community colleges. The results are from a 2010 survey of select community college administrators. The researchers found that most of the community colleges surveyed were familiar with PLA and offered it. However, the colleges surveyed reported that few students take advantage of the opportunity PLA offers them. While community college administrators see potential demand for PLA, those surveyed did not have plans to expand their PLA offerings. You may need to log-in to the CAEL website (it's free) to download the report.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

“When Junior’s In Charge”
As baby boomers stay in the workforce longer, conflicts between older workers and younger managers are bound to increase, notes this article on Human Resources Executive Online. Much of the problem stems from erroneous assumptions about older workers by younger managers. Unfortunately, some of these conflicts are so severe, that they lead to legal action and age discrimination complaints. The number of charges filed under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act rose from 14,141 in 1999 to 22,778 in 2009. Most cases cite unfair terminations and failures to hire. Many also cite harassing references to employees’ ages and younger managers’ failures to promote older workers or accommodate their work/life needs. The authors say that many of these problems could be avoided by providing better training to their managers and employees on how to manage generational relationships.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Boom time: Boomers volunteer at the highest rate of any generational group”
Boomers volunteer more than any other generational group and for deeply personal reasons, notes this Miami Herald article. About 33% of all boomers volunteer on a regular basis, the highest rate of any generational group and four percentage points above the national average of 28.8%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The volunteer rate for young boomers, ages 46 to 57, is 30.9%, significantly higher than the 25.3% recorded by the same age group in 1974 and the 23.2% recorded in 1989. This article interviews three baby boomers who volunteer, as well as experts on baby boomer volunteering.

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.