In the News

Plus 50 Initiative in the News

- “AACC Expands Efforts to Retrain Older Workers,” Community College Times, May 24, 2011
- “Susan Miller Named New VP for Academic and Student Affairs,” Cape Cod Community College, May 20, 2011
- “STLCC Chosen to Participate in Plus 50 Completion Strategy,” Missouri Community College Association, May 17, 2011

Student Story

Re-Inventing a Career at Plus 50

In this YouTube video, Gale Harral talks about taking classes at Clark College and pursuing an associate degree in applied science. Harral is training to become a medical office specialist and says that she likes working in an office environment. She previously worked as a supervisor for 17 years in manufacturing and is reinventing her career because she needs to continue working for an additional 10–20 years. Harral originally heard about Clark College at a work site where the college taught classes. She admits that she was initially intimidated about going to a college campus, but she was able to overcome her fears. It can be challenging, Harral says, to get up to speed with the material being taught in the classroom, especially after being away from the classroom for a long time. She advises plus 50 students to look at what’s available for support on campus to improve their study and test-taking skills.
Grant Opportunity

Youth-Led Intergenerational Programs, May 31 Deadline
Generations United and MetLife Foundation are awarding Youth Jumpstart grants of $1,000 and assistance to organizations in developing youth-led intergenerational programs. They are seeking young entrepreneurs who would benefit from modest financial support and assistance to develop or expand intergenerational work in their communities. As long as the project is led by young people and engages older adults, the possibilities are limitless. Creativity is encouraged. Video and written applications are due May 31, 2011.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

Developing the Workforce as It Matures: Emerging Models and Lessons from the Mid-point of the Aging Worker Initiative
This 2011 monograph by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning describes the work of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Aging Worker Initiative grantees. Emerging practices at the mid-point of the project include mature worker career navigators, computer training, reverse job fairs, and internships. The report concludes with lessons learned about serving the needs of mature workers.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Finding, Training and Keeping Qualified Workers
This report by AARP explores how employers define qualified workers and the difficulties they may encounter finding and hiring them. Employers reported that they are concerned about losing the knowledge and experience that baby boomers bring to the workplace. In fact, 24% of surveyed employers said they are very concerned, and an additional 39% said they are somewhat concerned. The report is one of two funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to examine the degree to which the U.S. workforce will have the qualifications needed to fill the jobs expected to be available in the United States over the next 10 years.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Older Volunteers Aging in Place”
Get tips on how to manage baby boomers and older adult volunteers from this article by Energize, Inc. Supervision tips are offered to help volunteer managers offer customized support.

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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