What's New

College Plus 50 Completion Strategy Websites
The website for the Plus 50 Completion Strategy is already online at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Fla. Plus 50 is part of the overall site navigation structure on the college's site, making it easy for prospective plus 50 students to find. Santa Fe also provides a link to the National Plus 50 website. The University of Alaska–Anchorage Community & Technical College’s Plus 50 Completion Strategy website is also online. The starter site includes answers to frequently asked questions, contact information for the plus 50 completion strategy staff at the college, and links to AACC, the Plus 50 Initiative at AACC, and the Lumina Foundation.

Boomer Bust 2011: Still Unprepared and Unaware
This white paper by the Volunteers of America presents the results of a nationwide survey investigating how the elderly and their boomer caregivers are faring during the economic downturn. The survey showed that the majority of Americans significantly underestimate the amount of savings they will need to finance their future long-term care needs and that caregivers are sacrificing their own financial futures to help care for older loved ones.

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “MCC is Selected for Funding to Serve Students Ages 50+,” Monroe Community College, June 7, 2011
- “SRC Expands Effort to Retrain, Re-educate Older Learners,” Canton Daily Ledger, June 6, 2011
- “Spoon River College Selected to Participate in the AACC Plus 50 Completion Strategy,” Spoon River College, June 1, 2011

Student Story

After the Layoff: Getting Help
In this YouTube video, Randi Ross-Quick talks about being laid off from her job and getting
a new start. She looked at her 20-year-old resume and knew she needed some tips and suggestions so she could find a new job. She turned to the Plus 50 Initiative at Richland College for help. Located in the Dallas County Community College District, the college offers workshops and seminars tailored to job-seeking plus 50 adults like Ross-Quick. She got great tips on interviewing and networking from one of the seminars, and is planning to better manage her time. She took a workshop on job searching for plus 50 adults, where role-playing helped her build her confidence. Two of her friends have already taken a seminar at the college and another is signed up for classes.

Practical Tip

Jazz Up That Graduation Story With a Profile of Plus 50 Students

Graduation ceremonies and activities offer a great publicity tool to talk about your plus 50 program. Local news media may cover graduation ceremonies every semester to some extent, and reporters are often eager to hear about unconventional or nontraditional graduates, such as plus 50 students. At least 2 weeks before the graduation ceremony, identify a graduating student with a compelling story, such as the 83-year-old graduate highlighted in “No age limit on learning” in the Portland Press-Herald. Ask the student if he or she might be comfortable talking with the press and get some details about his or her educational journey and plans. Talk with your college’s public information officer (PIO) and provide background information on the student. The PIO may want to feature the student in a news release or suggest the student to a reporter more informally over e-mail or through a phone call. A great story may open up new partnerships for your plus 50 program or inspire others to return to campus.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

“Strategies for Increasing Credential Attainment: Getting Credit for What You Already Know”

This webinar from the U.S. Department of Labor provides technical assistance to the workforce system and its education partners on meeting the goal of increasing by 10% the rate of credential attainment of public workforce program participants. The webinar is the second in a series on this topic and focuses on the practice of awarding credit for prior learning as a way to accelerate credential attainment for adults who have earned noncredit occupational or apprenticeship certificates or otherwise have significant work experience.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

An Assessment of Labor Force Projections Through 2018: Will Workers Have the Education Needed for the Available Jobs?

This report prepared for AARP develops and analyzes occupational and labor force projections to the year 2018, with a particular focus on the educational requirements for jobs, the educational attainment levels of workers, and the potential for imbalance between them. The analysis in this report is based, in part, on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2008–2018 occupational projections. The focus is on broad levels of educational attainment rather
than specific types of degrees or areas of study. The report examines 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.

**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**

“Baby Boomers Are Largest Group to Step Up, Volunteer”

This article in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* discusses baby boomer volunteering rates. About 33% of all baby boomers volunteer on a regular basis, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That is the highest rate of any generational group and four percentage points above the national average of 28.8%. In 2009, 22.8 million boomers gave 3.1 billion hours of service to American organizations.

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](http://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](http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org).

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