What’s New

Funding Opportunity
AARP Foundation, Office of Grants Administration, has announced the Recession Recovery Grants Program: Employment and Economic Support Services for Low Income 50+ Working Families. The purpose of the Request for Proposal (RFP) is to identify and fund innovative and strategic models that provide employment and income support services that address the specific needs of unemployed workers age 50 and older to help them recover from the recession and the effects of unemployment. Successful projects will prepare older workers for and connect them with employment in quality jobs in high-growth and emerging industries. In addition to providing employment and training services, connecting the 50+ population to income supports to sustain themselves through periods of unemployment is also a priority in the RFP.

Prior to submitting a proposal, you must submit a letter of inquiry. Proposals will not be considered for support unless a letter of inquiry has been submitted and the applying organization has been invited to submit a full proposal. See How to Apply for further information.

The letter of inquiry closing date is October 3, 2011, and proposal closing date (if invited) is October 17, 2011.

In the News

“Committing to Complete,” Inside Higher Education, August 30, 2011

“65% of Adults Use Social Networking Sites,” Pew Internet & American Life Project, August 26, 2011

“Advice for Baby Boomers Who Want to Start Businesses,” Houston Chronicle, August 20, 2011

“Planning Pathways for Completion,” Community College Times, August 18, 2011

Plus 50 in the News

- “50+ and Back to School?” University Credit Union, August 17, 2011
- “WGTC Staff Joins National Effort to Help Train Older Learners,” WALB News 10, August 11, 2011

Courses, Resources & Conferences

Fall Course Roundup: See What’s Happening With Plus 50 Around the Country
Money Management: Resources to Help Plus 50 Adults
With “Get in Charge,” users find a wealth of resources on how to manage their money, understand spending habits, and regain control of their finances. The site from Maryland Public Television offers videos, free help services, tip sheets, local events, and more.

With Savvy Saving Seniors, plus 50 staff and faculty gain an exceptional toolkit of resources to help them better educate plus 50 adults about money management. Produced by the National Council on Aging, the toolkit offers a guide with information on how to conduct a 90-minute financial training workshop, PowerPoint slides to help, and a workbook for participants. A webinar is being offered September 16, 2011, to help educators learn more about how to use these materials. Registration is free and available on the website.

Build the Movement: Share Information on Your Plus 50 Program at Upcoming Conferences
The 2012 Call for Convention Events is available on the American Association of Community Colleges website. You can submit a proposal for a forum, innovation theater, a lightning round, or a poster session. The convention is a wonderful opportunity to share the innovative work that you are doing at your community college with plus 50 adults. Consider submitting a proposal before the September 26, 2011, deadline. The AACC Convention will be held April 21–24, 2012, in Orlando, Florida.

The 2012 Innovations Conference is accepting proposals through September 16, 2011. The Innovations Conference encourages and facilitates student and organizational learning through innovation, experimentation, and institutional transformation. The conference features forum sessions, roundtable discussions, learning center courses, and poster sessions for each Innovations stream, along with general session keynotes aimed at inspiring innovation and change in all areas of community college education. The conference will be held March 4–7, 2012, in Philadelphia.

Plus 50 Story

Reaching for a Big Goal: The Plus 50 Completion Strategy
In this YouTube video, Mary Sue Vickers with the American Association of Community Colleges discusses the Plus 50 Completion Strategy. Community colleges taking part in the initiative have a goal to serve 9,000 plus 50 students over the next four years, with 40% of those students finishing credentials, certificates or degrees.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

Degree Completion Beyond Institutional Borders Researchers from the Center for American Progress and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning say that the institution-centered emphasis on the traditional credit hour as the basis for academic achievement is increasingly misguided, given student mobility. The report advocates for more acceptance of several alternative methods that some colleges and organizations are using to award credit, from competency-based models to rigorous evaluation and formal recognition of prior learning.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING
Leaving No Worker Behind: Community Colleges Retrain the Michigan Workforce—and Themselves
This evaluation study examines what five community colleges in Michigan learned as they worked to retrain thousands of dislocated workers and low-skilled adults to qualify for jobs in emerging and expanding sectors of the economy. By 2011, more than 150,000 adults had enrolled in training financed through the No Worker Left Behind initiative, and 59% of participants eligible for federal workforce programs found a new job after completing their training. The lessons these colleges learned can help institutions and states nationwide as they strive to serve this rapidly growing college population.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Health, Senior Expert Marino Shares Her Skills”
Baby boomer Theresa Marino retired only a few days ago, and is already volunteering to make a difference in her community for older adults, reports this article in the Long Beach Press-Telegram. During her career, Marino developed, directed, and implemented numerous public and nonprofit programs that focus on public health and worked on the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Older Adults, the Long Beach Elder Abuse Prevention Team, and the Regional Senior Services Collaboration. Now her volunteer work allows her to continue pursuing her passion for helping the community.

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 12.4 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.