In the News

“Life After 50: The End of Aging as We Know It,” Huffington Post, September 7, 2011

Plus 50 in the News

- “STLCC Nursing Program Allows Wilderness to Achieve Her Dreams,” St. Louis Today, September 11, 2011
- “NJC One of Select Colleges Selected for Program,” South Platte Sentinel, September 7, 2011
- “Heller Resigns From College Trustee Board,” Canton Daily Ledger, August 30, 2011

Plus 50 Story

Unemployed: Getting Re-Trained for a New Job, And a New Life
In this YouTube video plus 50 student Karin Ball talks about attending the Community Colleges of Spokane. When Ball lost her job during the economic recession, she went to the unemployment office and was referred to an AARP program that partners with the college to help re-train older workers. The program pays for three months of courses for unemployed workers. In addition, she was able to get financial assistance from the college and bus passes to help her get to campus. Through the program, Ball was able to improve her computer skills by taking Microsoft Office, Quick Books courses and courses in medical terminology and administration. Ball met many other plus 50 adults who were also trying to re-start their lives. She found other students and instructors willing to help her when she needed it and she liked the supportive learning environment. She would like to take more classes at the college in the future and is presently job-hunting. She encourages other baby boomers to consider enrolling at community college.
**LEARNING**

*College Completion Toolkit*
This U.S. Department of Education toolkit offers practical advice for state policymakers seeking to improve higher education systems by enhancing supports for college completion and postsecondary education. Strategies discussed in the report include making it easier for students to transfer between colleges, utilizing performance-based funding, using data to drive decisionmaking, accelerating learning while reducing costs, and targeting adults with some college education but no degree.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

*“Young and Older Workers: (Not) Entering and Exiting the Labor Market”*
An insightful panel of experts discusses trends in unemployment for older and younger workers on this [recorded webcast from the Urban Institute](https://urban.org/). It’s bad enough that the national unemployment rate is more than 9 percent, but for young people trying to get a foothold in the job market, the numbers are dispiriting. The unemployment figure for people age 20 to 24 is 15.3 percent, for teens it’s 25.4 percent, and for black teens it’s 44.2 percent. At the other end of the age spectrum, a comparatively modest 6.9 percent of adults 55 and over are unemployed, but when they lose their jobs it takes them much longer than younger workers to become reemployed. Young people’s lifetime opportunities take a long-term hit when they confront delays in entering the labor market, while older adults have to dig into their retirement savings to make ends meet when out of work for long stretches of time. This discussion about policy solutions can help young and older workers navigate a labor market in turmoil.

**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**

*50-Plus Voices: Testimonials from Alumni of CCS Programs*
Plus 50 volunteers who traveled overseas to help others are sharing their experiences with [Cross-Cultural Solutions](https://www.crosscultsolutions.org). They discuss relating to others cross-culturally, learning a different culture, and exploring another country. Cross-Cultural Solutions has a program in partnership with AARP specifically for plus 50 adults who want to volunteer.

---

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](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.