What’s New

New Resource: Plus 50 Standards of Excellence Tips
AACC is pleased to announce the online publication of the Plus 50 Standards of Excellence Tips. This resource is loaded with tips to help community colleges launch and improve programs helping adults age 50 and up complete degrees, certificates, or other courses of study. It features practical advice from plus 50 program staff working at community colleges around the country. Suggestions and ideas are the outcome of the information exchange during the July 2011 Plus 50 conference. The tips are organized by the Plus 50 Standards of Excellence framework.

Funding Opportunity Reminder
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 Proposals (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. Download the RFP here.

Prior to submitting a proposal, you must submit an online 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.

Leadership Training Program Will Help Boomers Improve Communities
A new plus 50 leadership training program, called Evolve: Reigniting Self and Community, will launch October 14, 2011. The 8-session program meets one day per month in Littleton, Colorado. Evolve helps employed, transitional and retired persons acquire skills to become
effective change makers. Participants will learn about opportunities and barriers to leadership in later life. They can also rediscover their lifework; plan and implement civic leadership projects and build a network for sharing knowledge and resources. The program is co-sponsored by Arapahoe Community College and the Minnesota-based Vital Aging Network. It is made possible through funding by the New York Life Foundation. For more information call Kim Larson-Cooney at 303-797-5723.

In the News

Plus 50 News

- “PHCC Plus 50 Math Class,” Suncoast News, September 17, 2011
- “Joliet Junior College (JJC) on WJOL,” WJOL, September 14, 2011
- “For Boomers Not Ready or Able to Retire, Plus 50 Program is a Plus,” St. Louis Beacon, September 13, 2011
- “St. Louis Community College Targets Plus 50 Learning,” St. Louis Core, September 13, 2011
- “Atlantic Cape Offers New Club 50 Plus Classes This Fall,” Atlantic Cape Community College press release, September 7, 2011

Related News

- "Students in the 40 and Over Crowd Grow at the Fastest Rates at Mott Community College," Flint Journal, September 17, 2011
- “Baby Boomers Among the 2011 Beautiful Minds,” The Examiner, September 22, 2011

Plus 50 Story

Unemployed: Getting Re-Trained for a New Job, And a New Life

In this YouTube video, plus 50 student Kyle Ann Gartside says she was surprised to find many other students who were age 50 and up at Clover Park Technical College. She had not been to college since 1969, and was pleased at how well she and other plus 50 students fit in with the younger students on campus. She went back to college to train for a new career after an industrial accident that forced her to look for a new job. Gartside says that college is fun and has helped her self-esteem. She expresses gratitude toward the staff at the college for reaching out to help her reach toward a brighter future.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program
LEARNING

“Another Kind of Higher Education”
Certificates can be more useful than college degrees for some students, says this American Radio Works article. The skills students learn in certificate programs will be increasingly in demand as the economy grows and becomes more complex according to economist Tony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. People can get certificates in a wide range of fields, from traditional occupations such as welding and machine tools to newer fields such as computer information systems and surgical technology. For some people, getting a certificate can be more valuable than getting an associate's degree. A longitudinal study of workers who are now in their mid 30s found that about 40% of those with certificates or licenses were earning more money than their peers with just an associate's degree; more than a quarter of those with certificates or licenses were making more than those with bachelor's degrees.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Discover Your Skills
Discovery Communications—the media company that manages several popular cable TV networks—is joining the national effort to increase and improve job skills by launching a new website, Discover Your Skills. The website compiles education and training resources, including career exploration information, and provides links to federal workforce resources and to AACC’s Community College Finder. Two of the resource links within the “Changing Jobs” section of the website are available in Spanish.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Make a Meaningful Connection”
In Rochester, New York, the baby boomer generation is volunteering at a higher rate (40%) than in other parts of the country (29%), says this article in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. The district is struggling with low graduation rates, and research has proved that students with mentors are more likely to stay in school and more likely to stay away from drugs and violence. Mentoring makes a difference —for both the mentor and the child. "I imagined myself doing something that I hoped would impact a child, but it feels so good that it's hard to imagine a time before I did this," says Dorothy, a mentor paired with 11-year-old Jessica. "It's much less about the movie we see or the ballgame we go to. It's about just being together. I'm not a therapist, not a teacher — I'm just me giving her my take on things."

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.