This is the last Plus 50 Initiative Newsletter of 2011. The next issue will be January 6, 2012. Happy holidays!

In the News


Around the Colleges

At St. Louis Community College, the plus 50 program recently unveiled a new Web page featuring contact information for plus 50 concierges on the college’s satellite campuses. Phone numbers for the plus 50 concierges help prospective students link to them for information and support.

At Santa Fe College, the plus 50 program held a professional development workshop for faculty and staff on generational learning differences. Dr. Waynne James, a professor in Adult Education at the University of South Florida, conducted the session. The workshop was designed to increase the awareness of the learning style differences and challenges faced by older learners.

Resource for Colleges

AACC Voluntary Framework of Accountability

Following 18 months of intensive research, analysis, and pilot testing, AACC and its partners launched the first-ever custom framework to measure how 2-year colleges perform in serving their more than 13 million students. The Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA), along with its Metrics Manual v. 1.0, will give community colleges what many believe has long been lacking in reporting their successes to the public and policymakers: specific metrics that assess how they do in areas such as student progress and achievement, implementation of career and technical education programs (credit and noncredit) and transparency in reporting outcomes.
“Electronic Mapping Helps Colleges Target Campaigns”
A Community College Times article discusses the usefulness of electronic mapping. With mapping systems, colleges can leverage information they routinely collect when students register, and correlate that data at the neighborhood level to reveal patterns they can use to manage recruitment and enrollment and to conduct funding campaigns. Several examples of colleges using mapping data to target audiences, save money, and secure resources are cited in the story.

Trends in e-Learning: What Students Are Really Doing
This article in Community College Times, “Survey Highlights Trends in E-Learning,” explores the results of a 2011 student survey that polled 1,205 students in August and September 2011. Nearly 6 in 10 community college students have taken college courses online, with 46% taking at least one such course this fall. Three quarters of students who have taken online courses said they are satisfied with their experience. Almost 4 in 10 students indicated that they would like to take all of their classes online. The 2011 student survey found rapid growth in ownership of e-tablets, which has tripled since 2010, with nearly 10% of community college students owning a tablet device. The survey results show that students regularly use technology to support their academics: two thirds of tablet owners use them when studying or doing homework and two out of five smartphone owners use their phones for the same purposes.

Plus 50 Story
Completion Strategy Tips: Atlantic Cape Community College
Helping plus 50 adults finish their educational degrees or credentials at community colleges is important as many go back to school to retrain for new careers in today's struggling economy. In this YouTube video, Dharmesh Dave with Atlantic Cape Community College offers tips and advice for other colleges on how to support plus 50 adults to achieve their education goals.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

“New Program to Aid Community College Students Unprepared for Math”
About 38% of students arriving at community colleges in Texas need math remediation because their skills aren’t up to snuff. In this Fort Worth Star-Telegram news article, the reporter explores a program that helps incoming students who need math remediation take courses that allow them to earn full credit while getting needed tutoring and support. The program is offered at 11 community colleges in Texas and funded with a $1 million grant through Complete College America provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

A Toolkit for Maine Employers: Implementing Workplace Supports to Encourage Employee Training and Education
Supporting employee education and training can help an employer address many key workforce challenges—such as talent turnover and hiring challenges. It can also keep a
company’s workforce up-to-date on evolving trends and technologies. This helpful toolkit from the Maine Development Foundation offers employers ideas on how to support employees who are returning to school to complete additional training and education. Tips on coaching and mentoring employees, flexible scheduling, and financial aid are offered.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

**Corporate Baby Boomers and Volunteerism: Study Findings**

This study by the Taproot Foundation seeks to understand corporate baby boomers, adults over age 50 who work at larger companies. Researchers used one-on-one interviews and focus groups with corporate baby boomers in Silicon Valley. They see service as a core part of their life going forward. They are looking for clear, effective, and well-managed volunteer opportunities that will leverage their skills and experience and can be flexibly integrated into their schedules. Corporate baby boomers have the largest concentration of transferable skills as management analysts, personnel managers, chief executives, administrative and public officials, and communications specialists. However, they may be more difficult to reach than younger generations due to the diversity of channels they use to gather information. Their professional skills represent a major opportunity to bring millions of dollars worth of assistance to the nonprofit sector.

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

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