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In the News

- “Monroe CC Joins Efforts to Retrain Older Workers,” Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, December 20, 2011
- “Boomers Head Back to Community Colleges,” USA Today, December 15, 2011
- “Moraine Valley's Blue Island Campus Offers Credit, Noncredit Classes This Spring,” Palos Hills TribLocal, December 9, 2011
- “Full Slate of Classes Offered This Spring at Moraine Valley's Tinley Park Campus,” Palos Hills TribLocal, December 9, 2011

Plus 50 News

USA Today Story Featuring Plus 50 Initiative Leads to More Exposure
The story, “Boomers Head Back to Community Colleges,” was picked up by Gannett News Service and the Associated Press for distribution to other news outlets. The story also ran in the Chicago Sun-Times. The story was also referenced, quoted, and linked to in blog posts by AARP News “The Takeaway,” the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools, and the Community College Spotlight published by the Hechinger Report.

Exemplary Academic Advising Programs Sought for Monograph
AACC, in cooperation with the National Council for Student Development and the National Council of Instructional Administrators, is working with Terry O'Banion, president emeritus of the League for Innovation in the Community College, to identify the most outstanding or exemplary academic advising programs in the nation’s community colleges to be featured in a monograph. We hope a plus 50 program will be included, but that can’t happen if you don’t nominate your programs. Nominate a program for consideration by sending the name
“Medical Programs Offer Options for Career Changers”
A recent article in Community College Times highlighted the story of Bailey Pigford, a 79-year-old student who recently graduated from Central Carolina Community College with a certificate in phlebotomy. He is already enrolled in a nursing program at the college. Many colleges offer medical training opportunities to plus 50 students, who are reinventing themselves for their second and third careers.

Grant Opportunities

Learning & Leadership Grant: Applications Due February 1
To help fund a professional development event for your college’s faculty and staff on learning styles of plus 50 students, consider applying for a Learning and Leadership Grant through the NEA Foundation. Grants may cover the costs for professional speakers, books and materials. Applicants may be staff or faculty at public higher education institutions. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year, and the next deadline is February 1.

Pearson Prize National Fellowships Recognize Students Who Give Back
In 2012, the Pearson Foundation will award Pearson Prize National Fellowships to 20 students in recognition of their commitment to local communities, and one of your plus 50 students could be one of them. Twenty national fellows will receive a cash award of $10,000 paid over two years. More information is available online about the Pearson Prize for Higher Education. Submissions will be accepted February 13–March 16, 2012.

Plus 50 Story
Shoreline Community College recently featured in their e-newsletter the story of plus 50 student Bob Hazel. He took the Integrated, Self-Paced Computer Lab course for plus 50 students last quarter. While Hazel had worked as a maintenance engineer, he had never actually used a computer before. He wanted to advance in his career and learn new skills. He recently completed his GED at Shoreline and will be working on the CNC (computer numerical control) Machinist Certificate with tuition paid under the worker retraining program. He plans to continue to take Plus 50 Career Builder computer classes in order to build the necessary computer skills to advance in the machinist program.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

Leveraging Service Blueprinting to Rethink Higher Education
The solution to many of higher education's issues lies in designing and delivering student-focused educational experiences that meet their needs and desired outcomes, says this 2011 report published by the Center for American Progress. The authors take the position that higher education is a service. A service lens puts the customer at the center of improvement and innovation initiatives. By approaching higher education through a service lens, using service management and service science perspectives, the authors argue that
higher education improvements and innovations should be driven by focusing on students as customers. In doing so, the student experience becomes the central focus upon which the structure, capabilities, and resources of higher education institutions are brought to bear and aligned. This is a significant shift, as it takes us from the idea of students navigating an often complex and fragmented higher education system to the idea of the higher education system being integrated and aligned to deliver the best experience for its students.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Michigan’s No Worker Left Behind. Lessons Learned from Big-Picture Workforce Policy Change
This 2011 National Skills Coalition publication explores Michigan's No Worker Left Behind initiative, an effort to change state workforce policy in response to deteriorating economic conditions. In just three years, the initiative has retrained more than 150,000 workers, who have earned credentials in high-demand industries. A combination of state and federal funding was used to help workers return to the classroom and re-train for new careers.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Baby Boomers Want To Create Social Change: Study”
Approximately one in four Americans between the ages of 44–70 are interested in starting their own small business or social venture, says research by Civic Ventures cited in this 2011 Huffington Post article. The author profiles Nancy Sanford Hughes, a recipient of a 2011 Encore Purpose Prize for those ages 60 and up who want to spark social change and innovation. Following her husband’s death, Hughes created StoveTeam International, an organization that manufactures safer stoves for people living in third world countries.

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.