February 17, 2012 Issue # 88
Visit our website

In the News


- “Baby Boomers Hit the Books at Community Colleges,” The Tennessean, February 8, 2012

- “Beginning Actors’ Troupe Forming in February,” Richland College Chronicle, February 6, 2012

Washington News and Plus 50 Programs

President Obama Proposes Community College to Career Fund
In the President’s 2013 budget released this week, it is proposed that the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education will work together on a new 3-year $8 billion Community College to Career Fund to help America's community colleges provide pathways to high-skilled jobs in high-growth industries. The fund builds on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program to infuse more resources into job training programs at community colleges. It is designed to train 2 million workers with skills that lead directly to employment. The proposal includes bonus funds for especially effective programs, money for state and local governments to attract businesses and jobs to America, and money for entrepreneurship training programs. The proposed budget also includes a new $55.5 million “First in the World” fund that would help postsecondary institutions develop and expand innovative and effective strategies for improving college completion. These investments will require congressional approval, which will be challenging to obtain in the current budget climate and in an election year. Many of the proposals also would require new laws (authorizations) to be enacted in advance of this funding. Read more in Community College Times.

Move for SCSEP to HHS in Federal Budget Proposal
The federal budget proposes to transfer the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) from the Education and Training Administration within the U.S. Department of Labor to the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health and Human Services. The goal for the proposed change is to improve coordination with other
senior-serving programs. This budget proposal will require congressional approval, which will be challenging to obtain.

**RFI: Practical Strategies to Increase Postsecondary Success**

The U.S. Department of Education issued a Request for Information (RFI) on Promising and Practical Strategies to Increase Postsecondary Success in the Federal Register on January 30, 2012. The department is seeking information on practical strategies, practices, programs, and activities that have improved rates of postsecondary success, transfer, and graduation. They are particularly interested in obtaining information about strategies that emphasize the quality of what students learn and timely or accelerated attainment of postsecondary degrees or certificates, including industry-recognized credentials that lead to improved learning and employment outcomes. Information provided in response to this RFI will be posted on the department’s postsecondary completion website in a form that will allow information about promising and practical strategies to be shared, commented on, and discussed. These promising and practical strategies will also be useful to the department during future deliberations on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and other legislative proposals to the Congress. Responses to this RFI should be submitted by April 30, 2012.

**Professional Development: Building the Completion Movement**

**Catch it Again: Using National Student Clearinghouse Data to Improve Adult Completion Efforts**

If you missed the webinar earlier this week on using National Student Clearinghouse data to improve adult completion efforts, you can watch it online for free. The webinar presented sample records and potential data uses to aid your efforts to increase completion by adults with prior college credit. The webinar and presentation slides are available online.

**Financial Aid**

**AARP Women’s Scholarships Available**

Applications are now being accepted for the AARP Women’s Scholarship program, which provides education and training opportunities for low-income plus 50 women. Applicants must be women age 50+, low-income, pursuing a technical or vocational education, an associate’s degree or a bachelor’s degree, and enrolled within a U.S. Department of Education accredited school or technical program within 6 months of the scholarship award date. Eligible applicants, when taking into account income and family size, must be at 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or less to qualify for a scholarship. Applications are being accepted through 5:00 p.m. (ET) on March 30, 2012.

**Grant News**

**AARP Foundation Awards $3.7 Million to Organizations, Plans to Issue RFI on Isolation**

The AARP Foundation announced grant awards totaling $3.7 million to multiple non-profit organizations working in hunger innovation and recession recovery that will impact thousands of plus 50 adults in 18 states. The selected organizations in the recession
recovery awards will implement unique models for providing a continuum of services to help older adults upgrade skills and obtain employment and have access to benefits, work supports and services that help protect themselves and their families from severe financial instability.

The foundation will be issuing a Request for Information (RFI) in February 2012 in connection with its work on isolation and low-income adults age 50 and older. The goal of the RFI is to help AARP Foundation learn what other organizations across the country are doing to help older Americans have the level of contact with others and involvement in community that supports healthy, engaged living. The results from this program will be used to shape the Foundation’s grant-making efforts.

Prior Learning News

Wal-Mart Stipends Available for CAEL Portfolios
There are a limited number of Wal-Mart stipends still available for eligible students seeking to take advantage of their prior learning experience and earn college credit. The stipend covers the cost of tuition for CAEL 100 and portfolio evaluations. The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning’s (CAEL) Learning Counts and CAEL 100 is an online, portfolio-based prior learning assessment. To get further information about the stipends e-mail Learning Counts.

Indiana to Allow WIA Funds for PLA
Indiana’s State Workforce Innovation Council has adopted a resolution to allow Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Training Funds to be used for Prior Learning Assessments. The resolution endorses Prior Learning Assessment as a key workforce investment strategy, directs the Department of Workforce Development to implement guidance regarding the proper usage of Prior Learning Assessments within Indiana’s WorkOne system and encourages the state’s Workforce Investment Boards and the Regional Workforce Boards to adopt policies and strategies that facilitate the usage of WIA Training Funds to provide Prior Learning Assessments where appropriate.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

“Developmental Education: New Strategies for Student Success”
When plus 50 adults go back to college, many must take remedial classes to get their math and English skills up to speed. This article in Community College Times examines innovative approaches to improving developmental education at Pima Community College and San Jacinto College. Jane Neuburger of Syracuse University and president of the National Association of Developmental Education urges colleges to tailor developmental instruction in math to areas where an individual student is weak. And she suggested community colleges give students more choices, such as a 16-week, slow-paced course, an accelerated course, or a combination of technology and face-to-face instruction.
TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Michigan’s No Worker Left Behind: Lessons Learned from Big-Picture Workforce Policy Change
This publication by the National Skills Coalition 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 retrain for new careers.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Baby Boomers Want To Create Social Change: Study”
The author of this article in the Huffington Post profiles Nancy Sanford Hughes, a recipient of a 2011 Encore Purpose Prize for those age 60 and up who want to spark social change and innovation. Hughes created StoveTeam International, an organization that manufactures safer stoves for people living in third world countries. She’s not the only baby boomer working to make a difference. Approximately one in four Americans between the ages of 44–70 are interested in starting their own small business or social venture, says recent research.

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.