In the News

- “McAsey, JJC to Sponsor Job Search Workshop Tomorrow,” Bolingbrook Reporter, February 15, 2012

News Impacting Plus 50 Programs

Santa Fe College’s Paul Hutchins Accepts Presidency at Sampson College
Dr. Paul Hutchins, who has worked with the Plus 50 program at Santa Fe College since 2008, was recently chosen as president for Sampson College in North Carolina. He hopes to have the support to continue implementing programs to support plus 50 students in his new role at Sampson College. We all wish Dr. Hutchins the very best in his new position.

White House Bus Tour Spotlights College-Business Partnerships
Dr. Jill Biden and U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis took a bus tour February 22–25 to visit community colleges around the country to see innovative college programs that are partnering with businesses to get people on the job and back to work. The tour kicked off at Columbus State Community College. Read more in Community College Times. The White House is also asking community colleges, students, and industry partners to share examples of college-business partnerships that have benefited their communities. You can respond by going online and sharing your story.

Upcoming Grants

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training
Vice President Joe Biden announced grants available through the 4-year, $2-billion Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. This round of grants, totaling $500 million, is to help train workers for available jobs. In September, the Department of Labor (DOL) awarded about $500 million in the first round of the program. The closing date for receipt of applications under this announcement is May 24, 2012. Information is available online from DOL’s grant announcement and
Program websites.

Student Story

From Laid Off to an Aerospace Composite Technician Program: Michael Wright's Story
Michael Wright, a plus 50 student at Clover Park Technical College, talks in this YouTube video about the aerospace composite technician program and his experiences going back to college at age 50 plus. It's a 6-month course with three months of mathematics instruction and three months of hands-on training. He says the students share camaraderie and are determined to complete their program and get jobs. He recently took his first test, which he admits was challenging after being away from trigonometry and algebra for 40 years, but he found the college staff to be supportive. He loves to work with his hands and is looking forward to starting another career with Boeing or another corporate partner.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

LEARNING

2011 College Completion State Data
This website from College Complete America offers data from 33 states on college completion efforts. The data presented in this 2011 report were provided by the 33 participating states themselves, using the Complete College America/National Governors Association Common Completion Metrics. National findings in each category were based on the calculated medians of the state data. You can use the data to learn about students who are part time, pursuing certificates, taking remedial courses, transfer, or are older.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Unemployment Statistics on Older Americans
This information from the Urban Institute shows unemployment rates and how they have varied by age, sex, race, and education since 2007. Community college program staff and faculty will find the data on unemployment by education level particularly interesting. Data is updated regularly.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

Bouncing Back? Employment Trends in the Nonprofit Sector
In this nine page report, the organization Idealist.org shares findings of a study conducted with 3,000 nonprofit organizations from all over the United States to find out how those organizations had been impacted by the financial crisis of 2008, and more importantly, how they are feeling about the future now. The survey reports that while the economy is still fragile and the nonprofit sector is still very careful with its spending, many in the industry are feeling optimistic about what lies ahead.
The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) is the primary advocacy organization for the nation’s community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree–granting institutions and more than 13 million students. AACC promotes community colleges through five strategic action areas: recognition and advocacy for community colleges; student access, learning, and success; community college leadership development; economic and workforce development; and global and intercultural education. Information about AACC and community colleges may be found at www.aacc.nche.edu.