In the News

Baby Boomers in the News

- “Communities Unprepared for Upcoming ‘Silver Tsunami’,” The Columbus Dispatch, March 27, 2012
- “Jobs Drive Boomers to Acquire New Skills,” Hispanic Business, March 27, 2012
- “Baby Boomer Warren James of Cleveland Enrolls at Cuyahoga Community College After Losing Job,” The Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 26, 2012
- “Baby Boomers Embrace Active Lifestyles,” The Appleton Post-Crescent, March 26, 2012
- “Baby Boomers Go Back to College to Boost Job Skills,” The Canton Repository/The Columbus Post-Dispatch, March 26, 2012

Information Streams to Help College Staff Supporting Plus 50 Adults

There are many e-newsletters and listservs out there, but which ones are the useful for community college staff working to support plus 50 adults as they return to campus? Here are our picks for the information streams that are most helpful:

- Adult College Completion Network
  Produced by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education with funding from Lumina Foundation, this email listserv reports new resources, shares project information from other organizations and colleges and profiles promising ideas and proven practices in college completion efforts. You can also sign up to join the network on their main website and submit your college completion project to be profiled.

- AACC’s Twitter Feed & #Plus50 Hashtag
  Every week we tweet a few links and information to support plus 50 programs on AACC’s Twitter feed. Search for hashtag “#plus50” to see what’s being tweeted.

- St. Louis Community College Plus 50 LinkedIn Group
  There is a LinkedIn group devoted to discussing plus 50 college issues organized by St. Louis Community College. Join the discussion on LinkedIn to share information with other college professionals working to support plus 50 students.
New Resource: Health Care Industry Competency Models Available
The U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Employment and Training Administration works with technical and subject matter experts from education, business, and industry to develop comprehensive competency models – and recently announced that three new health care-related competency models are available. Competencies are the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to successfully perform at work, in school and in everyday life. Competency models form the foundation for developing curriculum and selecting training materials, and for licensure and certification requirements, job descriptions, recruiting and hiring, and performance reviews. DOL provides information on 18 comprehensive competency models for industry sectors. The three available models are for the allied health industry sector, the electronic health records industry sector, and the long-term care, supports, and services industry.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

A Matter of Degrees: Promising Practices for Community College Student Success
In this helpful report, the Center for Community College Student Engagement has outlined seven principles that are critical to designing a program that ensures student success. They are: 1) A strong start. Colleges should make sure that students build strong personal connections with teachers, staff and other students within the first weeks of starting classes. 2) Clear, coherent pathways. Students are faced with many choices as they navigate through college systems. This can be confusing, intimidating and a barrier to student success. 3) Integrated support. Building support, such as skills development and extra instruction, into the coursework rather than referring students to outside services (such as tutors) help improve the learning experience and retention of students. 4) High expectations and high support. Set high standards for students and then provide the support they will need—such as academic planning and financial aid assistance—in order to attain these standards. 5) Intensive student engagement. Promoting student engagement in all areas of the college experience is the overarching feature of a successful program design. 6) Design your successful program to scale. Successful programs require a lot of resources. Create your programs at a sustainable level for your college and build from there. 7) Professional development. Instructors, staff, faculty, administrators and governing boards at a college must re-evaluate their roles and work together to foster student success.

LEARNING

Getting Started: Considerations When Building an Encore Program
Successful college programs helping plus 50 adults launch new careers take into account three important stakeholders: students, the college administration, and social sector employers. As you consider how you might launch your own baby boomer program at your college, you should give adequate planning time to learn the needs of your own local stakeholders and design programs to meet those needs. Civic Ventures offers tips and encourages colleges to understand students, get administrative support, involve employers, and make the best of the current economy.
TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Working Together: A Guide to Business and Adult Education Partnerships
Community Partnerships for Adult Learning offers a guide to help businesses seeking to improve the literacy skills of their current and future employees and strengthen adult education. This guide describes the many forms that business–adult education partnerships can take, the bottom line and philanthropic advantages to partnering, and the practical steps for getting involved. It begins by explaining why businesses of all sizes should consider investing in adult education. It offers models of business-adult education partnerships in three areas: expanding the employee pipeline; promoting corporate philanthropy in the community; and connecting through intermediaries. It also provides descriptions of actual business-adult education partnerships and links to related resources and information.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

Aging with Options
Our nation is on the cusp of one of the most dramatic demographic shifts in its history as a projected 71.5 million people will be age 65 or older by the year 2030. Currently, our nation’s ability to care for the aged is at a tipping point. The systems in place cannot adequately support the ever-increasing number of older Americans. Volunteers of America recognizes that aging is, for many, a complex and fearful unknown. The organization wants to help older Americans celebrate the joy of living by helping older adults create sustained and trusted relationships with support systems that allow them to age at home—wherever that may be. Volunteers of America will change the aging experience through Aging with Options. A video and links to local offices are provided.

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.