In the News

Baby Boomers in the News

- “Baby Boomers Redefine the Terms of Retirement,” Sarasota Herald Tribune, April 21, 2012
- “Retirement Bottom Line: Many Will Have to Work Until 70,” USA Today, April 20, 2012
- “He Said, She Said: Retirement vs. Work,” The Examiner, April 10, 2012
- “Is Your Company Ready for Boomer Retirements?” Industry Week, April 10, 2012
- “Aging Challenges for Single Baby Boomers,” PsychCentral, April 5, 2012

Sector Skills Academy Now Accepting Applications

The Sector Skills Academy is now accepting applications for its eighth class of 25 participants. The Academy is a year-long program involving workshops, mentoring, technical assistance, and peer support. It is designed for leaders from community-based organizations, community colleges, local government, labor-management partnerships, and business associations. Through three, 3-day workshops, participants hear from leading sector practitioners, share ideas and experiences, and gain exposure to innovative ideas and creative leaders from the sector field. Each participant reflects on and refines a vision, strategy, and implementation plan for a sector initiative. Applicants should be involved in current sector initiatives or developing new initiatives and have the authority within their organizations to lead such efforts. Applications will be accepted through May 25, 2012.

The Plus 50 Initiative on YouTube: Sharing Experiences

Fifty-nine videos showing plus 50 students and staff working with plus 50 college programs are featured on AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative YouTube channel. We also link through our playlists to other videos posted by participating colleges. If you have a video you’d like to submit for inclusion on our channel, please contact Mary Sue Vickers.

The Plus 50 Encore Completion Grant RFP is Coming

Over the next three years, AACC plans to expand the Plus 50 Initiative to 100 colleges where plus 50 students will get job training and complete certificates or degrees in healthcare, education or social service professions. As part of the expansion that will help baby boomers prepare for careers that give back to society and finish degrees or certificates, community colleges will receive grants from AACC for their plus 50 programs. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for grant funds will be issued this spring. All subscribers
to the Plus 50 e-newsletter will be notified when the request for proposals is available. Consider now what you might want to include in your application for your college’s program. Now is also a great time to invite colleagues at other colleges to consider applying and getting involved.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION RESOURCES FEATURE

Gallup Poll: Americans View College Degree Completion as Essential for Landing a Good Job
This 2011 blog post highlights a Gallup study, done in conjunction with Lumina Foundation. The study found that Americans overwhelmingly believe that college degrees are essential to addressing the employment and financial uncertainty facing our country. At a time when nearly nine in ten Americans say it is a bad time to get a quality job, about half agree that people who have a college degree have a good chance of finding a quality job.

“Some College, No Degree”
There are 37 million Americans with some college credits but no degree--more than 20% of the working-age population. In an economy that increasingly demands workers with knowledge and skills, many college dropouts are being left behind. This American Public Media website explores the challenges adults face when returning to college, what degrees are worth, why so many quit college, and training opportunities for those who want to go back.

The College Payoff: Education, Occupations, Lifetime Earnings
In this report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, the authors examine what a college degree is worth--and what else besides a degree might influence an individual's potential earnings. This report examines lifetime earnings for all education levels and earnings by occupation, age, race/ethnicity and gender. The data are clear: a college degree is key to economic opportunity, conferring substantially higher earnings on those with credentials than those without.

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 Center for American Progress report. 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

Beyond Degrees: Lessons Learned from Skills2Compete - Maryland
This resource from the National Skills Coalition explores how Maryland went beyond traditional data and policy approaches to build a more integrated, training-focused, labor-market driven and accountable workforce and education system. This paper examines how government agencies worked together to begin documenting progress toward the Skills2Compete--Maryland goal. The author examines what lessons might be learned from this initiative as other states (or even federal agencies) assess how to ensure that all human capital investments are helping a broad scope of workers and industries obtain the skills necessary to compete and prosper in today’s economy.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

Create the Good: How-To Guides
If you want to give back to the community and start your own volunteer project, these helpful how-to guides from AARP’s Create the Good project offer a wealth of ideas and resources. Advice is offered on how to hold a school supply drive, start a community garden, help others avoid fraud, assist military families, or hold a community shredding event.

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.