AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “Adult-Friendly Degree Programs at Community College,” Community College Review, June 14, 2012
- “Today’s Boomers are Creative, Active, Entrepreneurial, Gaining National Attention,” Portland Community College, June 8, 2012

Reasons for Starting a Plus 50 Encore Completion Program
Are you interested in starting a Plus 50 program to bring older learners to campus? Here are the top ten things you should know before you get started! Is your community ready for a Plus 50 program? Resources and tools are available to help you take the first step and assess the interests of older learners in your local community. See more reasons on the Plus 50 website.

Businesses Team with Colleges to Achieve Workforce Goals
The Gap is teaching community college students job searching skills, college faculty are helping teach McDonald's employees English language skills, and NextEra Energy Resources created an apprenticeship program to help students transition into high-paying jobs. These are just a few of the high-impact partnerships that Skills for America’s Future (SAF) is highlighting as “Models of Success.” SAF hopes these types of programs will be replicated by other community colleges and corporations that want to work together but don’t know the best way to get started. So far, eight
exemplary Models of Success are posted on the SAF website. SAF, administered by the Aspen Institute, is a national effort focused on partnerships between community colleges and employers. Since it was launched by President Barack Obama’s Economic Recovery Advisory Board in 2010, it has helped create or expand partnerships between 30 employers and 200 colleges. Read more in Community College Times.

**Talbots Charitable Foundation Awards $200,000 in College Scholarships**

Women’s specialty retailer Talbots recently announced the finalists of the 2012 Talbots Women’s Scholarship Program. For the 2012 academic year, the program is awarding $200,000 in college scholarships, including 17 $10,000 awards and one $30,000 Nancy Talbot Scholarship Award. More than 11,000 women from throughout the U.S. and Canada entered the application process for the 2012 program beginning mid-October 2011 through early January 2012. The Talbots Women’s Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Talbots Charitable Foundation, a private non-profit organization committed to supporting the education, health and cultural enrichment of women. Over the past 15 years, this program has awarded more than $1.6 million in college grants to 600+ women ranging in age from their late 20s to early 60s.

**AACC Commends New Report on College Certificates Released by Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce**

Community colleges across the country continue to dramatically expand and enhance their certificate programs. These education and training programs are generally one year or less in length and provide immediate employment opportunities as well as paths to further college programs. In light of this, AACC commends the just-released report of Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce, Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees. This report provides a detailed, timely analysis of the significance of certificate programs in today’s economy, and should help guide educators and policymakers. See our resource section below for a summary of key report findings and read AACC’s commendation.

**Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program**

**COMPLETION**

**Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees**

This recent report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce provides a detailed, timely analysis of the significance of certificate programs in today’s economy, and should help guide educators and policymakers. The authors found that certificate degree holders earn, on average, 20% more than those possessing only a high school diploma.
Contrary to conventional wisdom, short-term certificates do not necessarily result in low-paying jobs; and longer-term certificates do not guarantee high pay. More than one third of all degree holders (associate, bachelors, or doctorate) also have earned a certificate. One third of all certificate awards are made to those age 30 or older, showing their importance for individuals currently in the workforce. Certificate attainment is particularly important for African-American students (among racial/ethnic groups, it represents the greatest percentage of the highest credential attained), while Hispanic students get the highest wage boost compared to those holding only a high school diploma. One fifth of all certificates at for-profit colleges are in the field of cosmetology; the net cost of these programs for students is nearly three times that at community colleges ($19,635 compared to $6,780). Certificate holders who procure jobs in their field of study derive much greater wage benefits than those who do not. Also, in part because of their preferred fields of study, women tend to receive less economic benefit from certificates than men. The report cites a variety of statistics showing the differential earnings impact of various certificate programs.

LEARNING

“Myriad Approaches to Developmental Ed”
A growing trend among 4-year higher education institutions to limit remedial courses is creating more demand for developmental education at community colleges, reports this article in Community College Times. Meanwhile, pressure to increase completion rates is prompting some community colleges to rethink their approach to developmental education, particularly for students at the lowest academic levels. A dozen states have already put some limitations on public 4-year colleges’ ability to offer remedial courses. Many colleges are trying to make remedial courses more effective by tailoring content to correct specific learner deficiencies, implementing peer assisted learning groups, and using an embedded skills approach.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

Employer Strategies for Responding to an Aging Workforce
This report by the NTAR Leadership Center explores how public and private-sector employers are preparing for an increasingly older workforce that is likely to be a workforce with more disabilities. The report includes examples of practices/workplace flexibility by employers to retain older workers. It offers strategies and profiles best practices used by U.S. employers to create positive work environments and conditions for aging workers that help them avoid Age Discrimination in Employment Act complaints. This literature and legal review, along with the recommendations gathered through individual interviews with leading,
national experts on the aging workforce, gives credibility to the dialogue currently under way in Congress and in the media about the viability of the Social Security system given the large number of retired Americans and the number projected to retire within the next 10 to 20 years. Experts recommend that both public and private research efforts be directed to investigate the impact of changes in public policy. Understanding the high correlation between aging and disability, experts also suggest examining and documenting the cost, provision, and efficacy of accommodations from the business perspective.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

“Nonprofit Harnesses Older Professionals Willing to Share Experience”

Armed with the desire to make the world a better place, many people who are approaching retirement are looking for ways to feel good about their work, and get paid for it, too, reports the Nonprofit Quarterly in this article. The nonprofit ReServe pairs professionals 55 and older with nonprofit groups or public agencies that can use their skills—at a discount. According to the article, nearly 1,500 “ReServists” have been placed in a broad range of positions, including college mentors, bookkeepers, writers, teachers, paralegals, administrative assistants, doctors, and nurses. ReServists are saving nonprofits dollars while earning a stipend of $10/hour. On average, individuals who work with ReServe work about 15 hours a week. According to Linda Breton, ReServe’s director of affiliate relations, “The stipend means everybody has skin in the game. A volunteer can say, ‘It’s a crummy day, I don’t think I’ll go in.’ A professional doesn’t do that.”

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.