AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Baby Boomers in the News

- “Study: Paid Content Viewing on Tablets, Mobile Phones Increased From 2011,” Broadcasting and Cable, June 21, 2012
- “Business Transitions Critical to Strong Rural Communities,” Rural Community Building, June 21, 2012
- “Baby Boom Money Squeeze is Set to Get Tighter,” National Public Radio, June 5, 2012

Mark Your Calendars: Another Grant Application Round is Coming!
AACC will conduct another round of grant funding to help new programs serving students age 50 and up at community colleges nationwide. Proposals will be accepted between September 10 and October 26, 2012, from community colleges committed to starting, enhancing, or expanding their existing workforce training programs for students 50 years of age and older. Participating colleges will ensure that these students obtain the degrees, certificates, and not-for-credit credentials sought by employers in the high-demand fields of education, social service, and health care. Selected colleges will receive grant funding, support from the Plus 50 Champion Colleges, and access to a wealth of resources and materials developed through the Plus 50 Initiative. To get more information and be added to the notification list for the request for proposals, please contact Mary Sue Vickers.
Innovative Developmental Education Strategies Spotlighted on PBS NewsHour
PBS NewsHour recently examined developmental education courses at community colleges and efforts to improve student success. Often, non-credit lecture-style courses produce high dropout rates for students. Some colleges are trying to change these numbers by altering how instruction is delivered. Strategies at Anne Arundel Community College for developmental math instruction and Baltimore County Community College for developmental writing instruction are spotlighted.

Gates Grant Helps Math-Rusty Community College Students
With help from a $3 million, 3-year Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant, the three campuses in the Seattle Community College District are offering short math-refresher workshops to incoming students. It’s part of a multipronged effort to help students skip math they don’t need, compress the time students spend taking math they do need, and make college math more engaging. These programs make it significantly more likely that students will finish their degrees. Math is a major roadblock for community college students. In the Seattle Community College District, about 70% of entering students need remedial math, according to a national standardized placement test. Educators know that taking remedial math for months—or even a year—can add to the time and expense of getting a degree, or make it more likely the student will give up and drop out. Read what the Seattle colleges are doing to help students in The Seattle Times.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

LearningCounts.org—For Adult Students Everywhere, Earn College Credit for What You Already Know
This presentation from Council for Adult and Experiential Learning provides a comprehensive overview of how to get credit for experience gained through on-the-job training, military service, independent study, and civic or volunteer service. The slideshare presentation explains more about the Prior Learning Assessment process and what is needed to get academic credit for past experience. Learningcounts.org offers services to help students and colleges identify experiences they can earn credit for and walks them through the process of applying for it.

LEARNING

Older Adults and Internet Use
Older adults love new technology but hate to admit it, say authors of this study by Perion Network Ltd. Though 88.5% of the Americans over 45 surveyed consider themselves slow to adopt technology, 84.8% adopt a
new technology when it fits their current lifestyle. The researchers found that 89% of adults age 45 and up will use new technology if it's better than what they use today, and 79.2% of respondents said that they find technology fun and enjoy new gadgets.

**TRAINING & RE-TRAINING**

“How Companies Misfire on Flexible Schedules for Older Workers”
Increasingly, companies offer flexible work schedules to entice experienced workers to stick around a little longer. The most common flexible work options for retirement-aged workers are part-time jobs, temporary jobs, and customized hours. But companies are making big mistakes by not formalizing programs, making their goals too broad, not addressing management problems and how aging is viewed, says this *TIME* magazine article.

**VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE**

“Utilizing Volunteers as Project Leaders”
An organization benefits from a robust volunteer infrastructure that sustains the activities of the organization. Essential to this sustainability are volunteer project leaders—community members who are trained to recognize community needs and to lead other volunteers in service activities that will meet those needs. In this online course from the Corporation for National and Community Service, you will discover how to build a strong volunteer leader program by establishing a project leadership framework and then recruiting, equipping, and supporting your leaders. Registration is required to access the course.

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.