AGELESS LEARNING

In the News

Plus 50 in the News

- “WCC Adds Program for Older Adults,” Fairfield County Business Journal, July 12, 2012

Free Webinar on Starting a Volunteer Program with Plus 50 Adults
Organizations working with older adults can chat with webinar presenter Sabrina Reilly to brainstorm how to start a volunteer program on Wednesday, July 25, 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. (ET). Leader of the webinar series “Volunteers: A Theory of Organizational Abundance,” Sabrina shares ideas on how organizational leaders can adjust their mindset about volunteers to increase volunteer engagement and extend their organization’s reach. This webinar is organized with the Aging Network Volunteer Collaborative. Get more information and register for the webinar online.

Online Conference August 14–16: Senior Corps 2.0: Experience for the Future
The Senior Corps 2.0: Experience for the Future virtual conference, being held August 14–16, 2012, highlights new performance measures for Senior Corps programs – RSVP, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program. Live conference sessions, program tracks and breakout sessions, an exhibit hall, networking lounge, and event bag are all available from the convenience of your desk. The conference is free and recommended for current Senior Corps program directors and sponsor organizations, as well as new organizations interested in partnering with Senior Corps.

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.
Student Success Story: Waitress Goes to College at Age 54
Cuyahoga Community College student Susie Porter started college at age 54. Two years ago, Porter was faced with a family health crisis, a shrinking customer base at the restaurant she worked at, and an overwhelming number of bills. She began exploring her options to go to college and re-invent her life. She enrolled in Cleveland State University. Through a partnership with Cuyahoga Community College, she was able to take less-expensive courses. The first semester, she enrolled in three online classes, taking nine credit hours, so she could continue to take care of her family and because she was nervous about starting college in her 50s. She got straight A's and chose urban affairs as her major. She was invited by Cornell University to apply to its School of Industrial and Labor Relations and was offered a full scholarship, room and board at the university. She now writes a blog to help other plus 50 adults go back to school. She advises older students to consider community college when heading back to school. Read more of Susie's story and get her tips for going back to college on her blog.

Video: How The Boomers Will Transform Aging & How Aging Will Transform the Boomers
In this general session recorded at the 2012 Aging in America Conference in Washington, DC, five of our nation's renowned experts in aging and leading visionaries shared their visions of the coming boomer "gerontocracy." Speakers include: Ken Dychtwald, founder and president of Age Wave; Arianna Huffington, president and editor-in-chief, AOL Huffington Post Media Group; Rhonda Randall, chief medical officer, UnitedHealthcare Medicare & Retirement; Gail Sheehy, author and columnist; and Fernando Torres-Gil, professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy, and director of the UCLA Center for Policy and Research on Aging, UCLA School of Public Affairs. The video is seventy minutes long.

Resources to Support Your Plus 50 Program

COMPLETION

Going the Distance in Adult College Completion: Lessons from the ‘Non-traditional No More’ Project
From 2008 to 2011, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education worked with six states (Arkansas, Colorado, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, and South Dakota) to improve policies and practices to increase adult degree completion as a way to raise overall state educational attainment levels. With funding from Lumina Foundation, the project, known as ‘Nontraditional No More: Policy Solutions for Adult Learners,’ identified and eliminated barriers that keep adults with prior college credit from returning to postsecondary education and completing their degrees. By bringing together state and institutional leaders, the project pursued two main objectives: identifying “ready adults,” or those who earned a significant number of prior college credits before leaving postsecondary education without earning a credential; and building a pathway to postsecondary success. This report summarizes results from the project that can help other colleges.

LEARNING

Not Too Late for School: Winning Strategies to Help the Mature Learner
The Council for Adult & Experiential Learning (CAEL) has mapped out a set of strategies to support mature workers in becoming mature learners. This paper shares what CAEL has learned and identifies the steps that states, localities, employers, and educational providers can take to support mature learners. The paper discusses lifelong learning accounts, prior learning assessment, career pathways and career advisement, and specialized training for mature workers. Recommendations are offered in several areas to improve access to learning for older adults.

TRAINING & RE-TRAINING

The Public Workforce System: Serving Older Job Seekers and the Disability Implications of an Aging Workforce
This report from the National Technical Assistance and Research Center identifies the challenges that older workers face, describes how the U.S. public workforce system serves these individuals,
and makes policy, program, and research recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of the U.S. public workforce system in serving this population. The report presents background research on older adults and employment. It describes the challenges that older workers face in maintaining employment or in becoming reemployed after losing a job. The authors present a summary of promising practices that have been identified by national experts and practitioners in the field and that national, state, and local public and nonprofit agencies and organizations have adopted to assist older workers in finding and keeping a job. Finally, the report presents policy, program, and research recommendations drawing upon interviews with national experts, including federal, state, and local workforce policymakers and practitioners. AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative is mentioned on page 29.

VOLUNTEERING & SERVICE

The Health Benefits of Volunteers for Older Americans: A Review of Recent Research

Approximately 18.7 million older adults – more than a quarter of those 55 and older – contributed more than 3 billion hours of service in their communities per year between 2008 and 2010. Volunteers not only help their community but also experience better health in their later years, enjoying greater levels of well-being, lower rates of depression and increased strength and energy. This two-page fact sheet summarizes recent research findings on the health benefits of volunteering for adults age 55 and up and makes policy recommendations.