A New Look at Learning After 50

American Association of Community Colleges
Attendee List

Chat Room

Presentation Slide Area

Brian Keating: Thank you for joining today's session! We will be starting at the top of the hour.
Submitting Questions

- Type the question in the text field and click the arrow button.
- Please enter the name of the person to whom the question is directed.
- Your name, the text “Submitted Question,” and your question will appear in red on your screen.
- Questions are sent directly to presenters – no other participants will see your question.
Practice: Attendance Poll

In the chat room, please type your name, the name of your organization, your location, and the number of people attending with you today.
Access to Webinar Materials

Click here to access a recording of today's webinar

http://plus50.aacc.nche.edu
Presenters

- **Mary Sue Vickers**
  Director, Plus 50 Initiative

- **Dr. Martha M. Ellis**
  Dean of Graduate Faculty and Professor, Roueche Graduate Center
Presenters, continued

• Ann Czernecki
  Plus 50 Encore Completion Coordinator,
  SUNY Broome Community College

• Stephan Edmonston
  Director of Senior Programs,
  Community College of Baltimore County

• Tracey Tonnous
  Coordinator of Business and Industry Training,
  Zane State College
Learning Objectives

By the end of today’s webinar, you will be able to:

• Provide an overview of the transformations and paradoxes associated with Plus 50 learners.

• Discuss the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical aspects of learning for adults over 50.

• Explore resources and best practices for building a learning environment that promotes reinvention, dynamic learning, and continued learning.
A Look at the Plus 50 Learner
A Time of Reinvention

The Plus 50 learner is:

- Pursuing new interests
- Rediscovering prior interests
- Learning something new voluntarily or by necessity
A Time of Transformation

Age 50-80: three different developmental transitions

50s are the new 40s: Middle age

60s now considered “young old”
Paradoxes Associate with This Time of Life

- Patience with slower pace
- Sense of urgency
- Strength in experience
- Vulnerable as a result of physical changes
- Experience liberation
- Experience loss
Cognitive, Emotional, Social, and Physical Aspects of Plus 50 Learners
Cognitive Characteristics of Plus 50 Learners

- Neurons regenerate and synapses can be formed
- Working memory is quite good
- Processing is slower
- Wisdom in various areas
- Draws on life experience to aid (or inhibit) learning
Physical Changes

Senses Lose Acuity

Slow Down Physically
Social Changes

Changing life roles

Social interaction is important

Respect for diverse experience is important

Bring diverse experiences to social interactions (including the classroom)
Emotional Experiences

Experience Loss

Independent Self Concept

Desire Acknowledgement of Diverse Experiences

Less Fear of Failure and Embarrassment
Andragogy: The Art and Science of Helping Adults Learn
Positive and Encouraging Processes

- **Remember!** College is a new environment. Element of risk for the Plus 50 learner.
- **Help** alleviate fear and build trust through positive and patient interaction.
- **Explain** why something is important to learn or do to achieve goal.
Relevance is Key

- Apply content to real-world scenarios
- Bridge connections between new learning and past learning
- Practical information and skills
- Why is something important to know or do?
- Acknowledge and accommodate knowledge and wisdom of Plus 50 learners
- Advise to provide a clear pathway to goal
Experiential Action Learning

- Simulations
- Case studies
- Problem-based learning
- Projects
- Collaborations
- Role playing
- Small-group discussion
- Advising, financial aid, admissions

Learn by Doing
Reflection Time

Ungraded Writing (Minute Papers)

Small-Group Discussions

Journals
Variety in Assessments

Options for demonstrating evidence of learning

Accommodations for physical changes

- Vision impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Additional time on tasks
Learning Contract

Develop a learning contract with:

- Goals
- Assessment Strategies
- Learning Strategies
- Expectations
Examples and Best Practices
Professional Development for Plus 50 at SUNY Broome Community College

Mission of the Teaching Resource Center

Provide instructors with the best practical information about teaching and learning.
Goals of the Teaching Resource Center (TRC)

• Encourage exploration and use of instructional technologies that enhance learning.
• Provide training and instruction on a variety of technical-pedagogical tasks.
• Support faculty in continuous skill development in technology and pedagogy.
• Foster a professional community of full-time and adjunct faculty.
Goals of the TRC, continued

• Encourage communication beyond training that helps faculty find support and answers among peers.
• Increase professional stature of community college teaching.
• Support, through many means, the mission of SUNY Broome Community College and the Division of Academic Affairs.
The TRC and Plus 50

Helped market webinar titled, “Supporting Adult Students: Building Services around Non-Traditional Needs” to campus faculty

Assist in finding resources within the campus
Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)

Technology and computer training are challenges for Plus 50 learners.
Addressing These Challenges

- Annual Adjunct Conference: Leveraging Technology to Support Student Success
- Plus 50 Technology Workshop
- Add Plus 50 Component to Existing Professional Development
Best Practice at CCBC

Computer instructor allows time in class for addressing student goals for improving computer skills
Helpful Tips for Faculty

Provide short sessions with brief, concise information.

Be positive.

Be an active listener.

Have patience.
Zane State College

One-Week Course for Faculty: How Plus 50 Students Learn
Support Sessions

All adjunct faculty support session conducted every fall
Helpful Tips for Non-Academic Completion Coordinators

1. Don’t be frustrated.
2. Ask for help.
3. Seek faculty-development advice from other colleges and universities.
4. Stick with it!
Questions and Answers

Please enter any questions you may have about the content covered in today’s session in the chat room.
To View a Recording of this Webinar

2. Search for today’s session on the Webinars page and click the View the Webinar Recording link.
Thank You!