

Tri-C awarded grant to train ‘Plus 50’ workers for new careers



Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) was recently chosen to join the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, a national effort to train 10,000 baby boomers for new jobs in health care, education and social services

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation secured a grant award for Tri-C to participate in the program, which is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

The program will help the College assist adults age 50 and over in completing degrees or certificates in high-demand occupations that give back to the community. Tri-C’s goal is to ensure the success of these students by providing a seamless support system as they develop new skills.

With many adults age 50 and over out of work or seeking to transition to a new career, the program offers opportunities for career makeovers for baby boomers. It will connect “Plus 50” students with numerous associate degree and certificate programs while linking them to a wide array of Tri-C services, including life and career skills assessments, internships and career coaching.

“No matter a student’s age, Cuyahoga Community College is where futures begin. The Plus 50 Program enhances our mission to build a trained and educated workforce in Northeast Ohio,” said Alex Johnson, president of Tri-C.

Since 2008, AACC and its network of Plus 50 Initiative colleges have supported baby boomers coming to college and helped them prepare for new careers. Eighty-nine percent of students participating in AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative told an independent evaluator that college workforce training helped them acquire new jobs skills, and 72 percent attributed landing a job to such training.

“Baby boomers who are out of work or want to transition into new career fields need to update their skills. Community colleges are affordable and working to help baby boomers, even if they’ve never stepped on a college campus before,” said Mary Sue Vickers, director for the Plus 50 Initiative at AACC.

Vickers added that many who participate in the program also find great meaning and purpose in their work after they get hired. “Jobs in health care, education and social services give baby boomers a way to give back to society, so plus 50 adults find these careers to be particularly rewarding,” Vickers said.

The Plus 50 Encore Completion Program is funded with a \$3.2 million grant to AACC provided by Deerbrook Charitable Trust. The Plus 50 Encore Completion Program supports AACC’s work to increase the number of students who finish degrees, certificates and other credentials. In April 2010, AACC committed alongside other higher education organizations to promote the

development and implementation of policies, practices and institutional cultures that will produce 50 percent more students with high-quality degrees and certificates by 2020.

For more information about the Plus 50 Initiative at AACC, see <http://plus50.aacc.nche.edu>.

Ohio's largest community college, Tri-C provides high-quality, affordable educational programs and services to our multicultural community, serving more than 60,000 students annually through degree and certificate programs.

The Cuyahoga Community College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to secure funding opportunities for scholarships and educational program development and enhancement for the College.

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