

Encore Career Opportunities for Boomers Available at Kapiolani Community Colleges

Every 7.2 seconds, a boomer in America will reach 62 and will soon be entering a new and uncharted phase of their lives called retirement. Many leave with excitement and anticipation to travel far and wide. Others find more time to golf, fish or spend quality time with their grandchildren. Still others use this time to pursue community projects or advocate for social causes for the betterment of the next generation. Recently, someone who just retired at 62 said, "I have about 20 to 30 more years to live but I don't know what to do with the rest of my life".

Older adults or boomers are America's fastest growing natural resource says gerontologist Marc Freedman in his book, *Primetime*. Increasingly, community colleges are seen as excellent places for older adults to get their bearings again and redirect their lives. Older adults who are or have recently retired have vast skills in health care, culinary arts, computers, education, technology, business, law, hospitality, human relations and in many other fields. There are great opportunities to learn from continuing education offerings at community colleges to pick up new skills for an 'encore' career. Encore careers combine personal fulfillment, social impact and continued income and thereby enables older adults to pursue new careers in their 2nd half of their lives that work for the greater good. The tarnished dream of golden years of endless leisure is giving way to a new form of practical idealism - - real jobs tackling real problems and making real impact.

The Civic Ventures non-profit organization in San Francisco, the American Association of Community Colleges together with the MetLife Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies have banded together to support over 30 community colleges to develop special encore career programs for older adults. While Hawaii's community colleges has not received any special support yet, the University of Hawaii's seven community colleges all are known for their accessibility, competitive pricing and practical workforce training focus.

Those interested in encore career opportunities should review the continuing education offering at each of Hawaii's seven community colleges.

Kapiolani Community College's Kupuna Education Center is offering a new non-credit course entitled "Encore Career Change and Life Transition for Boomers" beginning on January 25, 2010. This is a course for boomers looking to make a life transition change by re-careering, semi-retirement or volunteer work. This 4-session course is designed to allow participants to fully explore and plan for this life transition to the Third Age – a period of creativity, meaning and growth. Whether due to lay-off, retirement, boredom or a desire to make a difference in this world, this course is for you. Course work will include: life review, transferrable skills assessment, interest inventory, networking, skill statement writing, resume writing, interview skills, internet job search, and a life change philosophy. Individuals will be expected to participate in each session and do self exploration home work assignments. Instructor Steven Cook has 25 years of experience in career exploration and planning. Call the Kupuna Education Center at 734-9108 for more information or go to www.kupunaeducation.com .

INSETS

Encore Career and 50+ Programs in Community Colleges Across the Nation



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