



NEWS

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El Camino College Receives AARP Foundation Grant

El Camino College is among 17 community-based organizations selected to receive funds to help older adults build the skills to work for themselves

El Camino College recently received a grant from AARP Foundation to conduct free Work for Yourself@50+ workshops in the South Bay. This national grant initiative is designed to help older adults assess opportunities for self-employment, build skills, and connect with resources that will enable them to generate income by working for themselves.

El Camino College Community Education, which provides short-term, not-for-credit classes, workshops, career-training programs and events designed for professional and personal development, will offer three Work for Yourself@50+ workshops: 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Jan. 19 in ECC's Decathlon Room; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Hawthorne Senior Center, 3901 El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne; and 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. March 16 in ECC's Alondra Room. Light refreshments are included as part of each workshop.

“Our goal is to inspire and empower plus-50 adults with the tools they need to succeed professionally, personally and financially,” said Betty Sedor, ECC's director of community education. “Thanks to AARP Foundation's stellar workshop materials, coupled with El Camino College's top-notch presenters, these workshops create think tank environments where attendees learn how to make their entrepreneur dreams come true!”

This Work for Yourself@50+ program is an exciting new extension of ECC Community Education's established Young@Heart program that offers a selection of classes designed expressly for plus-50 adults.

“For many low-income older adults, self-employment and business ownership is an opportunity to change their future,” said AARP Foundation President Lisa Marsh Ryerson. “AARP Foundation is proud to work with organizations committed to helping older adults successfully run their own business. Our Work for Yourself@50+ program is designed to enable older adults to pursue self-employment by connecting them with trustworthy resources in their own communities.”

Through a nationwide open request for proposals, AARP Foundation, with support from The Hartford, identified and then selected promising organizations in high-need communities to receive grant awards and implement the Work for Yourself@50+ workshop model. The workshops help low-income adults age 50 and older understand the pros and cons of self-employment and support them through the early steps that can lead to success.

“The Hartford is excited to work together with AARP Foundation on the Work for Yourself@50+ program, empowering mature adults to build on their potential and to prevail as independent entrepreneurs,” said Diane Cantello, head of Corporate Sustainability for The Hartford. “Self-employment creates small businesses that contribute to the stability and vitality of their local communities.”

Creating and owning a business has long been heralded as a path to financial success and economic mobility. Low-income older adults, however, face unique hurdles when re-entering the workforce in a nontraditional capacity. AARP Foundation’s and The Hartford’s investment in these grantees seeks to improve the lives of vulnerable populations by supporting and advancing effective solutions.

To learn more about the Work for Yourself@50+ initiative, contact ECC Community Education at 310-660-6460, visit aarpfoundation.org/workforyourself, or call 1-888-339-5617 to receive a free tool kit and register for one of the upcoming workshops.

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