

## Key findings/highlights

Three Oregon research reports on Oregon's baby boom generation and workforce

### *Boomers Go to College, A Report on the Survey of Students 40 and Older*

Portland Community College Taskforce on Aging

A survey of more than 1,300 PCC students 40 and older for what's believed to be the first detailed picture in the country of the statistics, needs and aspirations of the baby boomers enrolling in colleges and other life-long learning programs.

#### Highlights:

- Four out of five students are taking classes not simply for personal enrichment, but to upgrade their skills, re-enter the workforce, or re-career.
- Nearly eight in 10 students are working at least part time, raising or caring for families, or both. As a result of these multiple and competing priorities, most students report "time restraints" as a top obstacle to achieving their goals.

### *AARP Oregon Poll of Employers in the State on Age 50+ Employees*

AARP Oregon

A survey of 400 Oregon employers to determine their views on an aging workforce and how they are preparing for anticipated labor shortages.

#### Highlights:

- About 67 percent of Oregon businesses report that is somewhat, very or extremely likely that their organization will face a shortage of qualified workers in the next five years. But nearly two-thirds also report that they have not taken measures to prepare for the projected shortage.
- Nearly seven in 10 (67 percent) say they have hired older workers and half say their organization has rehired retired employees.

### *Oregon Gray Matters: How Will Older Workers Help Fill Oregon's Workforce Demand?*

University of Indianapolis Center for Aging and Community, commissioned by Portland Community College

A study of the aging population's impact on Oregon's workforce.

#### Highlights:

- By 2020, Oregon residents 55 and older are expected to comprise 26 percent of the population, and residents 65 and older are expected at 25 percent, making Oregon the fourth oldest state in the country.
- Based on state demographic projections, Oregon's older population is expected to grow an estimated nearly 25 percent between 2006 and 2014. This means an additional 220,594 potential workers.
- The share of older workers has been increasing since 2000. Overall growth of older workers is estimated at 35 percent over eight years compared with total workforce growth of 6.6 percent.