Why not be a learner for life?

By JESSICA KLIPA
LOCAL GUEST WRITER

If you’re a mature adult planning the next step in life, you have options at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota whether you are interested in taking up a new hobby, learning new skills or changing your career.

For mature learners beginning a new career, SCF — a college with more than a half century of experience in helping nontraditional students prepare for satisfying careers — provides quality and affordable training in critical-need areas and grooms students of all ages for career success.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the percentage of adults over age 55 in the workforce will grow to 25 percent in 2020. Recognizing that many mature adults are out of work or interested in retooling to return to the workforce, SCF joined the American Association of Community Colleges Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, a national effort to train baby boomers for new jobs in health care, education and social services while helping them complete certificates or degrees.

The SCF Foundation Inc. received a $15,000 grant to be applied over three years for SCF’s Manatee-Sarasota Encore Initiative, which assists adults age 50 and over in completing degrees or certificates in high-demand occupations that give back to the community.

SCF’s Manatee-Sarasota Encore Initiative has two tracks: the educational path to help baby boomers achieve their dream of a college education or the career path for retired baby boomers who want to re-enter the workforce in another field.

SCF will reintroduce mature learners to the educational environment by administering a Career Interest Inventory for career guidance, teaching study skills and strategies and providing updated instruction in technology to help mature learners prepare for college life and begin training in SCF’s existing workforce programs. SCF offers career opportunities in education and health professions such as dental hygiene, nursing, pharmacy tech, radiography and more.

At your local SCF Venice campus, you also can take a wide array of summer courses offered by the college’s noncredit Corporate and Community Development division, including Watercolor Mixed Media, Zumba for Beginners, Beginner Computer and more. Coming to SCF Venice this fall are additional courses in computer, exercise, art and foreign language specifically designed to enrich the lives of mature learners.

SCF also helps mature learners take advantage of those perks that come with age. SCF will offer a Mature Driver course for 55-and-older participants at SCF Venice. After taking the course, you may submit the certificate of completion to your insurance company for a rate reduction. For schedules and more information about courses for mature drivers offered by SCF’s Traffic Safety Institute, call 941-408-1520.

You can take the first step to beginning a new career, updating your skills or finding a new hobby by contacting SCF’s noncredit Corporate and Community Development division in Venice at 941-408-1412.

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