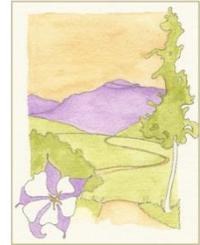


## PRESS RELEASE

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### NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

#### Workforce strengths

We are an aging community where the average age of all County residents has risen to 50. And we are actively aging, with our older residents being well-represented in our workforce.

Yet age 50 – not coincidentally – is the age at which the number of women in poverty in Archuleta County skyrockets to twice that relative to men; tracking with wage disparity here, where men earn 1.33 times the amount as a woman in the same position. This disparity further impacts our economy, given that above age 55 there are twice as many women remaining in our workforce than men, rising to four times as many by the age of 60 (US Census, 2020).

Yet all these statistics are contrary to what we know about the value of older employees in the workplace.

- Higher customer satisfaction scores are achieved by more mature workers.
- Older employees remain at their jobs three times longer than younger employees – with companies reaping gains from lower training and related costs (Changing the Narrative, 2020).
- Age-diversity widens a team's skill sets, an undeniable advantage for any business or agency.

Think about your own workforce and when you have open positions take advantage of the wealth of knowledge and stability that more mature candidates can bring to your organization. And consider how to provide and maintain a living wage for your entire staff – a factor shown to improve employee retention and business success. Together, these factors can improve the resiliency of your organization – a win for your business and our community as a whole.

You can contact us or learn more about ASI at our website: <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

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