



## Postsecondary Education Trends We're Watching in 2023

With 2022 in the rear view, Ascendium has kicked off the new year with optimism and excitement. We'll continue to work closely with our grant partners and will be watching several postsecondary education trends in 2023. Future grant opportunities may be informed by the trends we see, especially if they connect to our goal of fostering upward mobility for learners from low-income backgrounds. [Read more...](#)



## Investing in IT Career Training Pathways Shows Promise for Adult Learners

The growth in nondegree workforce training options presents new pathways for learners from low-income backgrounds to achieve living wage careers. With so many options available, it's important to consider which models are most likely to result in upward mobility for those learners. IT training pathways that include learner supports and industry partnerships are models that have so far shown success. As a result, Ascendium has strategically invested almost \$20 million in scaling these programs. [Read more...](#)

## Additional Ascendium News



[Partnership with The Chronicle of Higher Education Elevates Learner Voices](#)



[Social Media Spotlights Partner Innovations, Connects the Field](#)

## Be a Leader, Trailblazer and Difference Maker

We're looking for an experienced philanthropy professional to join our team as Vice President - Education Philanthropy. In this position, you'll have the opportunity to oversee postsecondary education and workforce training grantmaking that has the power to create lasting systemic change and make a difference in the lives of millions of learners across the nation. [View position details](#)

## Updated Password Policy for Ascendium Grant Portal Users

Ascendium's grant portal, Fluxx, has a new password policy that requires users to change their password every 90 days. If you are a Fluxx user, you will be prompted to change your password the next time you log in. If you have any issues changing your password or logging in, please email the [Grants Management](#) team.

## New Resources

Our grant partners regularly create resources that benefit organizations focused on student success. These resources are published to our [Resource Library](#) often; here's what's new this month.

- [CAPR Multiple Measures Assessment Toolkit](#) (MDRC)
- [Driving Economic Mobility Through Rural Education \(Part II\)](#) (Rural Matters)
- [How Pell Restoration Can Foster Postsecondary Education Opportunities for Learners in Prison](#) (Academic Intelligence)

## Recent Grants

### Remove Structural Barriers to Success

[Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Accelerated Course Formats](#)

[Tennessee Board of Regents-The College System of Tennessee | \\$734,300 | 12/2022 - 11/2024](#)

This grant supports the Tennessee Board of Regents partnership with Stanford University researchers to better understand the impact of accelerated courses on students from low-income and other non-traditional backgrounds.

### Equity Action Intensive

[The National Association of System Heads | \\$200,000 | 12/2022 - 06/2024](#)

This grant supports the National Association of System Heads partnership with four to six state postsecondary systems to develop plans for improving equity in postsecondary outcomes. Systems will conduct self-assessments, set concrete equity goals, receive expert technical assistance and initiate reforms.

### Streamline Key Learner Transitions

[Evaluations of Strategies to Improve Education and Workforce Success](#)

[The Rector & Visitors of the University of Virginia | \\$1,276,000 | 12/2022 - 11/2026](#)

This grant supports Dr. Ben Castleman's research center at University of Virginia to engage in research-practice partnerships that will evaluate Merit America in Texas and Piedmont Virginia Community College's gateway course reforms.

### Investing in CodePath's Evidence of Effectiveness

[Codepath Org | \\$1,000,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2026](#)

This grant supports CodePath in establishing a body of rigorous evidence about the impacts of its programming at more than 70 colleges and universities. Data will include technical internship placement, completion of degrees in computer science and labor market outcomes for learners from low-income backgrounds.

### Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

#### Implementing an Evaluability Assessment

[Reentry Campus Program | \\$250,000 | 12/2022 - 08/2025](#)

This grant supports Reentry Campus Program in strengthening its core programming. Activities aim to help incarcerated and formerly incarcerated learners identify a career path, gain college credit and complete degrees and certificates. The grant also supports their work with an external evaluator to define their program model and lay the groundwork for future evaluation.

#### Conducting an Evaluability Assessment of Reentry Campus Program

[Research Triangle Institute | \\$242,617 | 12/2022 - 12/2023](#)

This grant supports Research Triangle Institute in assessing Reentry Campus Program (RCP)'s operations and data collection. The result of the one-year assessment will be actionable preparatory steps for RCP to take for a rigorous study of how its approach contributes to positive postsecondary outcomes for currently/previously incarcerated learners.

### Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

#### Advancing Digital Skilling in Rural America

[Center on Rural Innovation Inc | \\$1,331,200 | 12/2022 - 2/2025](#)

This grant supports the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) in building pathways to tech employment for learners from low-income backgrounds in rural communities. This investment will help six communities in CORI's Rural Innovation Network identify local tech needs and design and implement training programs designed to meet the needs of rural learners and local employers.

#### Building the Data Capacity of Rural Postsecondary Institutions

[WestEd | \\$737,000 | 12/2022 - 05/2025](#)

This grant supports WestEd in providing customized coaching and support to rural located/serving institutions including tribal colleges. They will help colleges improve institutional research and data capabilities and apply these to federal grant applications and institutional planning efforts.

### Field Support and Development

#### Analyzing Public Comments for Proposed Rulemaking on Prison Higher Education and Pell

[University of Utah | \\$50,000 | 12/2022 - 06/2023](#)

This grant supports the Research Collaborative on Higher Education in Prison at the University of Utah in analyzing and synthesizing public comments submitted in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the expansion of Pell Grants for incarcerated students. This analysis will help identify salient field questions and concerns regarding the reinstatement of Pell grant eligibility for incarcerated learners in July 2023.

#### Quality Framework for Community College Bachelor's Degree Programs

[Community College Baccalaureate Association Inc | \\$50,000 | 12/2022 - 11/2023](#)

This grant supports Community College Baccalaureate Association in collaborating with postsecondary education and workforce partners to establish characteristics of quality for community college bachelor's degree programs.

## On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

Ascendium is committed to the safety of our staff and will continue to monitor and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance regarding travel. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming virtual and in-person events.

### 🏠 Correctional Education Association: Leadership Forum

New Orleans, LA  
Feb. 2-7, 2023

### 🏠 Achieving the Dream: DREAM 2023

Chicago, IL  
Feb. 14-17, 2023

### 🏠 Community College Baccalaureate Association: Imagine the Possibilities 2023 Conference

Palm Springs, CA  
Feb. 15-17, 2023

### 🏠 National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students: Be a Connector for Transfer Student Success 2023 Annual Conference

Virtual / Portland, OR  
Feb. 1-3, 2023 / Feb. 20-24, 2023

- Carolyn Lee, presenter, "Holistic Credit Mobility: An innovative framework to foster credit and learning mobility"

### 🏠 United Way Dane County: Community Celebration

Madison, WI  
Mar. 1, 2023

### 🏠 SXSW EDU 2023

Austin, TX  
Mar. 6-9, 2023

### 🏠 American Education Research Association Annual Meeting: Interrogating Consequential Education Research in Pursuit of Truth

Chicago, IL / Virtual  
Apr. 13-16, 2023 / May 4-5, 2023

### 🏠 ASU\_GSV Summit: Brave New World

San Diego, CA  
Apr. 17-19, 2023

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