



New Transformational Partnership Fund Helps Institutions Explore Student-Centric Partnerships and Collaborations

The Transformational Partnerships Fund will provide postsecondary institutions with support to safely and confidentially explore partnerships and collaborations that could transform the way they serve students from low-income backgrounds. Partnerships will range from mergers to shared administrative services and consolidated academic offerings. The new fund was established by ECMC Foundation and SeaChange Capital Partners, with additional founding support from Ascendium and The Kresge Foundation.

[Read more...](#)



Courtesy of Reentry Campus Program

Open Campus Media Convening and ITHAKA Project Examine Technology in Prison Postsecondary Education Programs

Open Campus Media and ITHAKA, with support from Ascendium, are leading efforts to underscore the importance of understanding the role technology can and should play in increasing access to and scaling of postsecondary education in prison programs.

[Read more...](#)



Strong Start to Finish Convening Encourages Courageous, Ambitious Action

Members of the Strong Start to Finish Learning Network convened virtually in early March to share insights, progress and strategies for reforming developmental education in their postsecondary systems and institutions.

[Read more...](#)



Newly Released Profiles from Next Generation Sector Partnerships' Benchmarking Project

Next Generation Sector Partnerships now includes close to 100 partnerships in nearly 20 states. With support from Ascendium, their new report documents the lifecycle of six partnerships across the nation and is intended for use by private and public partners interested in aligning education, workforce and economic development in their regions and communities. Next Gen's mission is to mobilize business leaders from a single industry and shared regional economy to work with one another and with a coordinated team of public partners to strengthen their industry and their communities.

[Read more...](#)



Now Hiring

Ascendium is now hiring to fill the role of Deputy Director-Education Grantmaking. This position will be responsible for activities supporting Ascendium's philanthropic mission as we expand our grant portfolio. [Find more information and apply online here.](#)

New Resources

Profiling Six Next Generation Sector Partnerships

This **new report** by Next Generation Sector Partnerships documents the lifecycle of six unique partnerships across the U.S. as they worked to align education, workforce and economic development needs of their regional economies. With funding support from Ascendium, these profiles and framework are intended to add to the growing set of tools available for public and private partners.



Accelerating Recovery through Credentials: Rapid Response Toolkit

This **resource** by Education Strategy Group provides postsecondary education leaders with an action-oriented toolkit to help pandemic-displaced workers gain new skills and credentials as they re-enter the workforce. Co-funded by Ascendium and The Kresge Foundation, it includes evidence-based strategies, resources and a process to create a rapid response action plan.



Recent Grants

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Text Steps Summer Melt Texting Initiative Scaling
National College Attainment Network | \$32,000 | 1/1/2021 - 6/30/2021

This grant supports the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) in amplifying the impact and reach of Text Steps, a Wisconsin-based initiative funded by Ascendium since 2018.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

Ascendium Education Group has cancelled all staff travel plans until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns, but we are supporting and attending virtual events. We hope everyone stays safe and we look forward to participating in live events in the coming months. We will continue to share past virtual event recordings, resource links and future opportunities to connect with Ascendium staff.

- Conversations for Action: College Access and Success**
February 10, 2021 (**recording**)
Danielle Vetter and Kirstin Yeado, presenters, Partners for Education at Berea College Webinar Series
- American Council on Education: Annual Meeting**
March 22-24, 2021
- Association of American Colleges & Universities: Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success**
March 24-26, 2021
- Partners for Education at Berea College: 2021 Rural College Access and Success Summit**
April 26-30, 2021
- American Association of Community Colleges (AACC): Annual Convention Virtual**
Thursdays in May 2021
- PEAK Grantmaking: PEAK2021**
May 4-13, 2021
May 6, 2021
Rebecca Villarreal and Nikki Wachter, presenters, "Intentionally Meeting the Needs of the Field in Times of Crisis"

= Ascendium is a proud sponsor