



### It's Time to Change the Way We Think About Incarcerated Learners

As the postsecondary education field recognizes Second Chance Month, Senior Program Officer Molly Lasagna argues it's time to apply what we've learned in broader education reforms to ensure the success of incarcerated learners. Doing so will require building the capacity of the field to be student ready. [Read more...](#)



Courtesy of LaunchCode

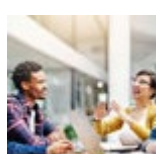
### Three Takeaways from RAND Corporation's Report: Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Prison Education

Beginning in late 2020, RAND Corporation undertook a comprehensive assessment of the impact that the COVID-19 health crisis had, and continues to have, on postsecondary education in prison programs. The goal of this project was to collect critical information that can help inform educators, colleges, corrections officials and policymakers about the overall impact of the health crisis and its effects on access to postsecondary education in prison programs, along with options to mitigate the short- and long-term adverse consequences. [Read more...](#)

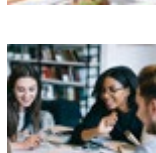
### Record Number of Wisconsin Apprentices Receive Tools of the Trade Scholarships

Ascendium is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Tools of the Trade Scholarship Program with a record-breaking number of apprentices receiving scholarships this year. We're pleased to share that 771 construction and industrial trade apprentices in the Wisconsin Technical College System received over \$1.5 million in scholarships. These scholarships assist apprentices with expenses such as the purchase of tools, equipment and clothing, curriculum costs and more. [Read more...](#)

### Additional Ascendium News



**Partnerships in Action: NJCU and HCCC Team Up to Improve Transfer Outcomes**



**Perspectives from the Field: What it Takes to Translate Postsecondary Credentials to Upward Mobility**

### 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.

- **Institutional Resilience in Puerto Rico: A First Look at Efforts by Puerto Rican HSIs** (Excelencia in Education)
- **Institutional Resilience in Puerto Rico and Rural Areas (Part III)** (Rural Matters)
- **Mapping Community College Finance Systems to Develop Equitable and Effective Finance Policy** (Teachers College, Columbia University)
- **Native Hawaiians & Pacific Islanders in Higher Education: A Collection of Campus Research to Inform Student Success** (APIA Scholars)
- **Transfer and Progress: Fall 2022 Report** (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)

### Recent Grants

#### Streamline Key Learner Transitions

**Support for Project QUEST and Per Scholas Evaluations**  
Economic Mobility Corporation | \$375,000 | 01/2023 - 12/2028

This grant supports Economic Mobility Corporation in partnering with two well-established nonprofit sectoral training providers – Per Scholas and Project QUEST – to evaluate program impacts on low-income learners' education and labor market outcomes and to identify key program factors associated with positive outcomes.

#### Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

**Preparing for Pell Grant Eligibility for Incarcerated Learners**  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators | \$201,125 | 04/2023 - 10/2024

This grant supports the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in providing technical support to financial aid offices preparing for the return of Pell grant eligibility for incarcerated learners.

#### Field Support and Development

**Women Of Color Leadership Summit**  
EquityWorksNW | \$27,500 | 04/2023 - 03/2024


This grant supports EquityWorksNW in convening a leadership summit for women of color in postsecondary education with the goal of supporting those leaders in designing and implementing institutional practices and policies that promote equitable student success.

**Seeding Innovation in Restorative Justice Curriculum**  
University of North Alabama | \$50,000 | 04/2023 - 03/2024

This grant supports the Restorative Justice Lab at the University of North Alabama in developing an applied learning complement to its 18-hour credit-bearing Certificate in Restorative Justice for incarcerated learners and laying the groundwork for evaluation contextualized to in-prison program delivery.

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

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming virtual and in-person events.

 **PEAK Grantmaking: PEAK2023**

Baltimore, MD  
May 5-10, 2023

 **Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: 2023 Learning Conference**

Washington, D.C.  
May 22-23, 2023

 **Community Colleges of Appalachia: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**


Asheville, NC  
June 4-6, 2023

 **Jobs for the Future: Horizons – Without Limits**

New Orleans, LA  
June 14-15, 2023

 **United Negro College Fund: UNCF Unite 2023**

Atlanta, GA  
July 17-20, 2023

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