



Q&A: Molly Lasagna on the State of Postsecondary Education in Prison Ahead of Pell Restoration

There's less than a year to go before the restoration of Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated learners. Ahead of this historic moment, our new senior program officer focused on expanding postsecondary education in prison shares what is being done to prepare providers, what goes into creating high-quality programs and how Pell restoration is informing Ascendium's philanthropy. [Read more...](#)



Hold Up: What We Do and Don't Know about the Impact of Holds on Postsecondary Student Success

Policy changes at institutions, systems and states are curtailing the use of transcript holds. These types of holds can be detrimental to student success. However, there are other types of administrative holds that colleges can impose on students who are still enrolled (e.g., a registration block for an incomplete immunization record, an unpaid library fine or poor academic standing). The impact of these varied holds, especially on learners from low-income backgrounds, requires further examination to be understood. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to 10 Exemplary Community Colleges in the Running for 2023 Aspen Prize

Excellence can be found at U.S. community colleges large and small, both rural and urban. We applaud the great work of 10 community colleges recently named finalists for the [2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence](#).

Each institution exemplifies how a community college can serve as an engine of prosperity and upward socioeconomic mobility for learners from low-income backgrounds. We look forward to lifting up and learning from these exceptional institutions!

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.

- [College Completion Strategy Guide](#) (MDRC)
- [Do the Details of Corequisite Supports Matter?](#) (Education Commission of the States)
- [No Middle Ground: Advancing Equity Through Practice](#) (Complete College America)

Recent Grants

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

[Collective Impact Fund Advancing Good Jobs and Inclusive Economic and Talent Development](#)

[America Achieves Inc | \\$500,000 | 08/2022 - 07/2023](#)

This grant supports America Achieves in providing technical assistance and funder matchmaking to a cohort of regional coalitions as they advance entrepreneurial economic development, good jobs and economic mobility, particularly for rural areas and underrepresented groups.

Field Support and Development

[Informing the Department of Education's Research and Evaluation Set-Aside Institute for Higher Education Policy | \\$225,000 | 07/2022 - 12/2022](#)

This grant supports the Institute for Higher Education Policy in crafting recommendations for the U.S. Department of Education to ensure the optimal use of a newly established evaluation set-aside for federal higher education programs.

Future U. Podcast

[Academic Intelligence | \\$55,000 | 09/2022 - 06/2023](#)

As part of Ascendium's 2022 Strategic Media Partnerships, this grant supports Academic Intelligence's production of the Future U. podcast series featuring interviews and stories about topics related to removing barriers to success in postsecondary education. The series will include four themed episodes dedicated to Ascendium's focus areas and highlighting its grantees.

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: 76th CEA International Conference & Training Event](#)

Tampa, FL
Aug. 28-31, 2022

[Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison Inc: Virtual Rise Up: Honoring the Past While Shaping the Future](#)

Sept. 7-9, 2022

[National College Attainment Network: NCAN National Conference](#)

Atlanta, GA
Sept. 12-14, 2022

[Rural Community College Alliance: RCCA National Conference](#)

Omaha, NE
Sept. 14-16, 2022

[Council for Opportunity in Education \(COE\): 41st Annual Conference Awards Dinner](#)

San Diego, CA
Sept. 21-24, 2022

[Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness: SREE Annual Conference](#)

Arlington, VA
Sept. 21-24, 2022

[National Fund for Workforce Solutions: 2022 National Fund Convening](#)

Minneapolis, MN
Sept. 27-29, 2022

[Excelencia in Education Inc: Celebración de Excelencia](#)

Washington, D.C.
Sept. 29-30, 2022

[Alliance for Higher Education in Prison: Virtual 12th National Conference on Higher Education in Prison](#)

Oct. 11-14, 2022

[Grantmakers for Education: Annual Conference](#)

Austin, TX
Oct. 18-20, 2022

- Keith Witham, presenter, "Seeding Innovation in Response to Emergent Challenges"
- Maryann Rainey and Molly Lasagna, presenters, "How Funders Can Support Equity & Success for Incarcerated Learners"

[National Rural Education Association: National Forum to Advance Rural Education](#)

Green Bay, WI/Virtual
Oct. 20-21, 2022

[Complete College America: 2022 Annual Convening](#)

Atlanta, GA
Oct. 24-25, 2022

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