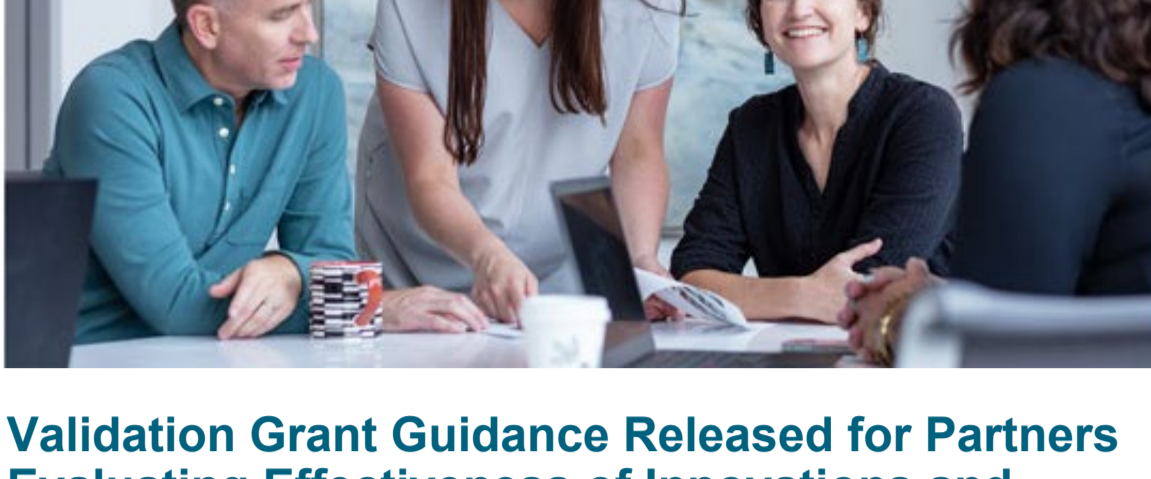


### YES WE MUST COALITION COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR ALL

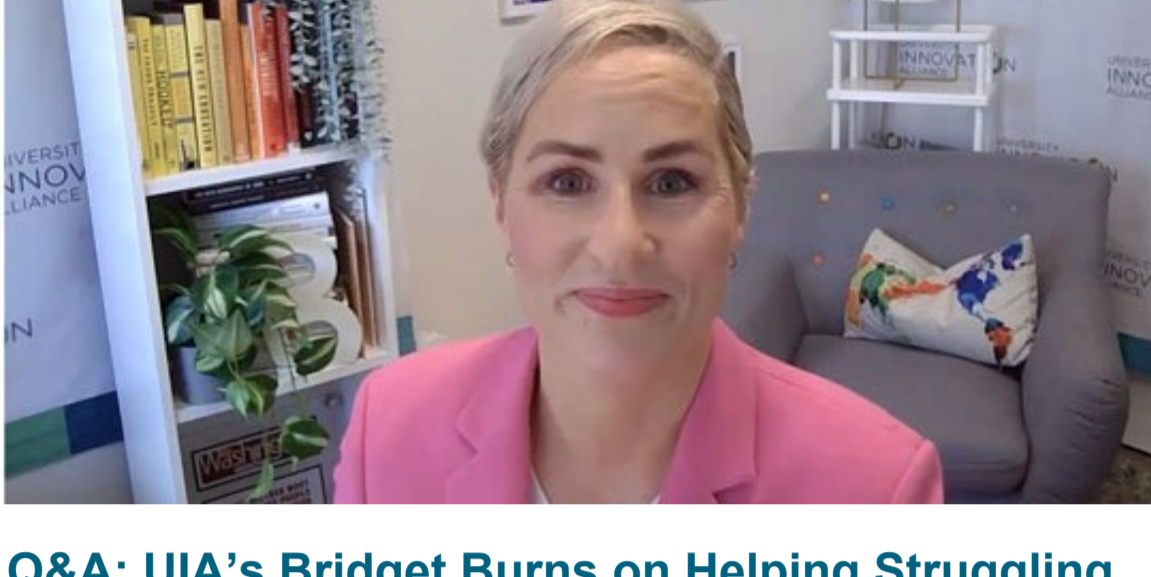
## How a Coalition of Nonprofit, Private Colleges Is Tackling Economic Inequity

Although the vast majority of learners pursue postsecondary education in hopes of landing a good job, career advising is frequently limited and opportunities such as internships are often out of reach for learners from low-income backgrounds – many of whom work while attending college and can't afford to take on unpaid work. The Yes We Must Coalition hopes to solve this by helping member institutions employ strategies for career preparedness that have proved successful at community colleges. [Read more...](#)



## Validation Grant Guidance Released for Partners Evaluating Effectiveness of Innovations and Reforms

Ascendium awards validation grants to support independent evaluations that help build the body of evidence about ideas that merit acceptance as standard practice. We recently released guidance designed to provide clarity to prospective grantees about the information we look for in applications for validation grants that center impact evaluations. [Read more...](#)



## Q&A: UIA's Bridget Burns on Helping Struggling Students Get Back on Track (Part 2)

Students who receive a D or F or withdraw (DFW) from a course often stall out and can risk losing future financial aid. The COVID-19 health crisis exacerbated DFW rates, especially among learners from low-income backgrounds. In part two of our interview, University Innovation Alliance (UIA) founding CEO Dr. Bridget Burns discusses what UIA institutions have learned from efforts to help students recover credits and regain momentum towards completion, as well as what other lessons they learned from the health crisis. [Read more...](#)

## 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.

- [Sector Strategies for Workforce Development: A Synthesis of the Research for Employers and Local Governments](#) (MDRC)
- [The Tennessee Coaching Project: Next Steps Advisors](#) (The College System of Tennessee)
- [When Community Colleges Offer a Bachelor's Degree](#) (New America)

## Recent Grants

### Remove Structural Barriers to Success

**Innovations in Proactive Communication and Support for STEM Success**  
**Brown University | \$750,000 | 09/2023 - 08/2027**

This grant supports the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University in assessing the impact of a tech-enabled, academic support innovation targeting students' science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) gateway course success and persistence at Georgia State University.

### Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

**Employability Skills for HEP Curriculum**  
**The QA Commons Inc | \$227,900 | 08/2023 - 06/2026**

This grant supports the QA Commons in integrating employability skills and college transitions supports into the Missouri Department of Corrections' Career and Technical Education programs for incarcerated learners.

**Building a Statewide Data Dashboard for Postsecondary Education in Prison**  
**Coleridge Initiative Inc | \$630,530 | 09/2023 - 08/2026**

This grant supports the Coleridge Initiative in strengthening Arkansas's data infrastructure to develop a data dashboard and conduct policy-relevant research on postsecondary education in prison. This project will serve as a model for other states on how to develop and use data to understand and improve postsecondary education in prison.

**Leveraging NCAN Members to Increase Success for Incarcerated Learners**  
**National College Attainment Network (NCAN) | \$600,000 | 10/2023 - 09/2025**

This grant supports NCAN in developing technical assistance for its members tailored to postsecondary education in prison. With its support, more NCAN members will partner with postsecondary education in prison programs to deliver supportive services to incarcerated learners.

**Oregon Statewide PEP Degree Program**  
**Portland State University Foundation | \$2,314,924 | 08/2023 - 06/2028**

This grant supports Portland State University Foundation in developing transfer pathways for incarcerated learners in Oregon in partnership with two community colleges. In addition to offering a clear path to a bachelor's degree, Portland State University and its partners will provide learners with wraparound supports during incarceration and post-release.

### Streamline Key Learner Transitions

**Non-Credit Mobility Academy**  
**State Higher Education Executive Officers Association | \$750,000 | 09/2023 - 08/2025**

This grant supports the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association in supporting four to six states to strengthen policy and data infrastructure around non-credit postsecondary education. Participating states will work to ensure that learners have access to high-quality non-credit postsecondary training, and that clear pathways exist from that training into credit-bearing credentials in fields where those are required qualifications for high-demand jobs.

### Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

**Implementing the Opportunity Accelerator Program to Expand Postsecondary Pathways for Rural Learners**  
**Goodwill Industries International Inc | \$2,000,000 | 08/2023 - 07/2026**

This grant supports Goodwill Industries International in expanding its Opportunity Accelerator framework to serve eight rural communities. Local Goodwill centers will develop new training pathways aligned to labor market needs in their regions, providing low-income young adults with training and support to attain jobs that pay a living wage.

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

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

**Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness: SREE 2023 Conference**

Arlington, VA  
Sept. 27-30, 2023

**Excelencia in Education: Examples of Excelencia**

Washington, D.C.  
Sept. 28, 2023

**Excelencia in Education: National Policy Forum**

Washington, D.C.  
Sept. 29, 2023

**Competency-Based Education Network: CBExchange 2023**

Amelia Island, FL  
Oct. 3-6, 2023

**American Evaluation Association: Evaluation 2023**

Indianapolis, IN  
Oct. 9-14, 2023

- Bethany Miller, panelist, "Approaches to Evaluating Systems Change: A Discussion with Three Funders"

**Grantmakers for Education: 2023 Annual Conference**

Atlanta, GA  
Oct. 10-12, 2023

- Molly Lasagna, panelist, "Building Networks: Pathways to Postsecondary Success for Incarcerated Learners"
- Molly Lasagna and Valerie Crespin-Trujillo, presenters, "Equity in Grantmaking Practice: Exploring Internal Change and External Collaboration"

**Community Colleges of Appalachia: 2023 Fall Conference**

Keyser, WV  
Oct. 18-20, 2023

**PMI Institute: Global Summit 2023**

Atlanta, GA  
Oct. 25-28, 2023

**The Center for Effective Philanthropy: CEP2023**

Boston, MA  
Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2023

**The Alliance for Higher Education in Prison: 13<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Higher Education in Prison**

Atlanta, GA  
Nov. 9-11, 2023

**Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management: APPAM Fall Research Conference**

Atlanta, GA  
Nov. 9-11, 2023

**Association for the Study of Higher Education: 48<sup>th</sup> Annual ASHE Conference**

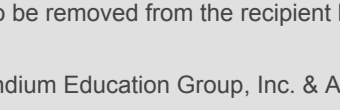
Minneapolis, MN  
Nov. 15-18, 2023

**National Skills Coalition: Skills in the State Forum**

Baltimore, MD  
Nov. 16-18, 2023

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