



Ascendium's Grantmaking Team Strives for Impactful Change and Is Looking for Individuals Who Share this Passion

Keith Witham, Ascendium's new deputy director - education grantmaking, shares his thoughts about education philanthropy in a time of unprecedented challenge and his hopes for meeting those challenges by filling key positions on a growing team. [Read more...](#)



Investing in Projects that Support Adult Learners

According to The Graduate! Network, 45 million adults 25 years or older in the U.S. have earned some college credit, but no degree. This specific population of learners represents 20% of the adult population. With the COVID-19 health crisis impacting employment opportunities, many of these adults are returning to postsecondary education. Learn more from members of our grantmaking team about how and why Ascendium is supporting projects that aim to improve the transition to and through postsecondary education for these returning adult learners at a critical time in their academic journey. [Read more...](#)

Additional Ascendium News



[Grant Explores Meaningful Workforce Partnerships](#)



[Improving Transfer Outcomes One Project at a Time](#)



[Maintain Momentum Enhances UIA's Black Student Success Initiative, ATD's Learning Tools](#)

New Resources

As a result of our grantmaking, many informative resources are created by our grant partners. New resources are published to our [Resource Library](#) often. Click each link to access the new resources grant partners have shared over the past month.

- [The Digital Rural Economy with Sarah Cacicio, Cindy Lopez, Meredith Hatch, and Mark Rembert \(Part IV\)](#)
- [Engaging Faculty Values to Develop Supportive Transfer Cultures: A Toolkit for Transfer Champions](#)
- [Metropolitan State University Case Study: A Tackling Transfer Report](#)
- [Mission Driven, Community Focused: Tribal Colleges & Universities and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Rural Transfer Pathways: Balancing Individual and Community Needs](#)
- [Rural Works Highlights Report](#)
- [Understanding the Landscape of Higher Education in Prison Survey](#)

Recent Grants

Field Support and Development

Ascendium Practitioner and Research Fellows

Scaling

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness | \$55,710 | 06/2021 - 10/2021

This grant supports attendance of 10 to 15 postsecondary researchers at the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness 2021 Annual Conference and three summer research fellows.

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Building Stackable Credential Pipelines that Support Equity and Provide Pathways

Validation

The RAND Corporation | \$483,900 | 10/2021 - 03/2023

This grant supports RAND Corporation in examining stackable credential pipelines in two states to determine whether learners from low-income backgrounds benefit from stackable credentials, whether they face barriers in accessing these pathways and which institutional and system level policies and programs strengthen equity. The goal is to inform efforts within the two states and nationally to build effective and equitable stackable credential pipelines for learners from low-income backgrounds.

Expansion of the Good Jobs Project

Validation

Georgetown University | \$450,000 | 11/2021 - 10/2023

This grant supports the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce in mapping economic opportunity by identifying where good jobs exist in urban and rural regions and establishing the most reliable educational and training pathways to those jobs. This analysis will expand on existing research by contextualizing opportunities to locale and enabling education and workforce providers to align programs with existing and projected labor demand.

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Capitalizing on Federal Momentum to Advance Postsecondary Student Success

Exploration

MDRC | \$250,000 | 08/2021 - 04/2022

This grant supports a project by MDRC, SHEEO and The Education Trust in capitalizing on momentum created by several federal proposals to provide funding for college student success programs. The effort will equip states and colleges with guidance and technical assistance so that they prioritize the implementation of programs with the strongest evidence base.

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.

Grantmakers for Education: The Rural Funders' Workbench: Tools for Grantmaking and Equity Virtual Webinar

August 25, 2021 ([recording](#))

Kirstin Yeado and Danielle Vetter, presenters

Coleridge Initiative's Democratizing our Data: A Challenge to Invest in Data and Evidence-based Policy Webinar

September 29, 2021

Rural Community College Alliance: Annual Live RCCA Conference 2021

Hickory, NC

September 22 - 24, 2021

SREE: The Fierce Urgency of Knowledge: Education Evidence for Reimagining and Reckoning 2021 Virtual Conference

September 26 - 29, 2021

NCAN: Rebuilding for Postsecondary Equity Virtual Conference

October 5 - 7, 2021

- October 7, 2021

Kirstin Yeado, presenter, "Using Data Visualization Tools to Understand and Support Rural Learners and Rural Postsecondary Institutions"

National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition: Virtual National Conference on Students in Transition

October 11 - 13, 2021

Grantmakers for Education: A Vision for the Future of Learning & Justice Virtual Conference

October 12 - 22, 2021

- October 15, 2021

Bethany Miller, presenter, "From Research to Action: Leveraging Literature Reviews to Improve Grantmaking"

- October 20, 2021

Sue Cui, presenter, "Effective Design and Management of Large-Scale Postsecondary Reform"

- October 21, 2021

Rebecca Villarreal, presenter, "What Can the Prison Classroom Teach Colleges and Universities?"

Association for the Study of Higher Education: 46th Annual ASHE Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico / Virtual

November 3 - 6, 2021

Competency-Based Education Network: CBExchange 2021

Austin, TX / Virtual

November 9 - 12, 2021

National Rural Education Association: 2021 National Forum to Advance Rural Education

Indianapolis, IN / Virtual

November 11 - 12, 2021

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison: 11th National Conference on Higher Education in Prison

Denver, CO

November 11 - 14, 2021

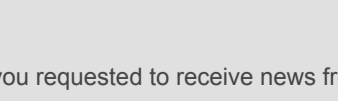
Council on Adult and Experiential Learning: 2021 Annual Conference

San Diego, CA / Virtual

November 17 - 19, 2021

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