



A Personal Message from Amy Kerwin

Please take a moment to read this personal message from Vice President - Education Philanthropy Amy Kerwin. [Read now...](#)



Reflections on Visiting Sing Sing, Plus Resources That Center Incarcerated Learners

In September, members of Ascendium's Education Philanthropy team visited Sing Sing Correctional Facility, where they had the opportunity to meet directly with the facility's students. We've gathered some reflections on that visit, as well as a trio of nationally distributed resources that uplift the voices of incarcerated learners and the work being done to help this population succeed. [Read more...](#)



Fund for Workforce Equity Organizations Selected

Workforce Matters is a national network of grantmakers working together to strengthen workforce development policy and advance equitable education and employment outcomes. They recently announced their selection of 15 organizations to receive grants from the Fund for Workforce Equity. Ascendium is pleased to support the Fund as insights gained from the selected projects will inform our grantmaking across many of our strategic priorities. [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.

- [Facilitating Institutional Transformation](#) (JFF)
- [Holistic Credit Mobility: Centering Learning in Credential Completion](#) (Ithaka S+R)
- [Rural Works Highlights Report: Year 2](#) (Local Initiatives Support Corporation)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Scaling the Leadership Academy for Student Success

New Venture Fund | \$1,062,925 | 12/2022 - 12/2025

This grant supports National Center for Inquiry and Improvement in working with two to three selected states to implement key elements of the Ohio Leadership Academy for Student Success. The key elements of the Ohio model will provide targeted training for community college leaders to build state- and system-level capacity for implementing wide-scale student success strategies.

Accelerating Just Transformation in the Foundational Postsecondary Experience

John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education | \$1,000,000 | 12/2022 - 06/2026

This grant supports the Gardner Institute in working with cohorts of colleges with growing populations of first-generation, low-income and minoritized student populations to redesign the first-year student experience. The Accelerating Just Transformation in the Foundational Postsecondary Experience project will enable institutions to redesign practices that impede success for learners from low-income backgrounds and identify and act on targeted reforms to promote equitable student success.

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Innovation and Expansion of Accelerated Training and Shared Outcomes Model

Year Up Inc | \$4,500,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2025

This grant supports Year Up in launching a new Google Career Certificates training program in two locations — Austin, Texas, and Seattle, Washington — as a complement to its traditional one-year, tuition-free training model. Year Up will pilot the Google Career Certificates training, combined with a shared outcomes financing plan, and assess the potential of the model for scaling to reach more learners.

Fueling Growth Through Innovation

Per Scholas Inc | \$6,000,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2025

This grant supports Per Scholas in scaling their technology workforce training and professional development model to tens of thousands more learners and hundreds more employer partners throughout the U.S. Ascendium's investment will support efforts to build new partnerships, deepen the bench of highly-qualified instructors and redesign recruitment and admissions processes to be more learner friendly.

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Building Executive Leadership Capacity

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison | \$130,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2023

This grant supports the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison in building executive and organizational capacity in its emerging role as a field convener and resource hub for postsecondary education in prison programs nationwide.

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Changing Systems to Support Partnerships Between Rural Community Colleges and Industry Stakeholders

National Skills Coalition | \$600,000 | 12/2022 - 11/2024

This grant supports the National Skills Coalition in helping states implement policy and systems changes to create and/or strengthen partnerships between rural-based community colleges and industry. This effort will document how existing partnerships have impacted the postsecondary and workforce success of rural learners and provide targeted technical assistance and coaching to state agencies and workforce coalitions.

Field Support and Development

Developing a Proxy Measure of Income in NSC Research Publications

National Student Clearinghouse Research Center | \$677,181 | 11/2022 - 11/2023

This grant supports National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (NSC – Research Center) to pioneer a new measure of income and incorporate analysis by income level into research reports. By further developing a new measure, NSC – Research Center will have a replicable approach for disaggregating outcomes by students' income background in its signature annual publications.

Institutional Collaborations in the Postsecondary Education in Prison Space

Rhodes College | \$50,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2023

This grant supports Rhodes College in Tennessee in facilitating collaboration across three postsecondary institutions that each operate programs in one prison facility in order to strengthen program alignment, facilitate resource sharing and improve offerings and outcomes for incarcerated learners.

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.

📍 **Mission Investors Exchange: 2022 National Conference**

Baltimore, MD

Dec. 5-7, 2022

Rural LISCC: Rural Talk – 2022 Seminar

Washington, D.C.

Dec. 7-9, 2022

- Kristin Yeado, presenter, "Investing in Workforce Systems"

Correctional Education Association: Leadership Forum

New Orleans, LA

Feb. 2-7, 2023

Achieving the Dream: DREAM 2023

Chicago, IL

Feb. 14-17, 2023

Community College Baccalaureate Association: Imagine the Possibilities 2023 Conference

Palm Springs, CA

Feb. 15-17, 2023

📍 **National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students: Be a Connector for Transfer Student Success 2023 Annual Conference**

Virtual / Portland, OR

Feb. 1-3, 2023 / Feb. 20-24, 2023

- Carolynn Lee, presenter, "Holistic Credit Mobility: An innovative framework to foster credit and learning mobility"

United Way Dane County: Community Celebration

Madison, WI

Mar. 1, 2023

📍 **SXSW EDU 2023**

Austin, TX

Mar. 6-9, 2023

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