



Education Philanthropy Program

Ascendium is working to change postsecondary and workforce training systems so that all learners have equitable opportunities for socioeconomic mobility. Our grantmaking focuses on removing systemic barriers faced by learners from low-income backgrounds, especially those in historically underrepresented groups: first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color and veterans.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Ascendium supports efforts that can help the field better understand rural learners from low-income backgrounds and postsecondary education providers, and also work to strengthen those providers. We also invest in efforts to improve collaboration and partnerships to support rural learners through their postsecondary experience and entry into the workforce.

An investment priority to...

Better understand rural learners and postsecondary providers through high-quality research

Means we support...

- Providing resources and opportunities for applied research collaboration between researchers, employers, funders and postsecondary providers
- Increasing rural postsecondary provider ability to gather, analyze and use data and data systems

Which will lead to...

- Identifying, completing and disseminating applied research that supports rural learners through their postsecondary education experience and entry into the workforce
- Generating new knowledge about the impact of diverse education and training delivery models administered through and with postsecondary education providers
- Supporting data infrastructure for cross-system data sharing, tracking and reporting among postsecondary providers

An investment priority to...

Build the capacity of rural postsecondary providers to support learners through their postsecondary experience and entry to the workforce

Means we support...

- Expanding job training models in high-demand fields for learners in rural communities
- Scaling effective institutional practices and policies that support learners completing degrees or credentials in a timely manner
- Supporting professional development for student-centered postsecondary leaders in various roles

Which will lead to...

- Rural learners having the education and skills needed to transition to meaningful jobs in their communities and chosen careers
- Increasing postsecondary education providers' capacity to refine their operations to implement evidence-based practices that support academic success

An investment priority to...

Catalyze investment in and support for rural learners and providers through partnerships

Means we support...

- Facilitating strong connections between postsecondary education providers and employers to offer high-quality postsecondary opportunities and pathways to employment
- Supporting communities of practice, including regional and national networks to solidify relationships between postsecondary education systems, key stakeholders and employers

Which will lead to...

- Partnerships at the systems level that are based on postsecondary and career success to increase peer learning, network building, and best practice sharing that highlights promising models among practitioners and partners

Visit ascendiumphilanthropy.org to learn more.