



2024 Trends

Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training Trends We're Watching in 2024

Part of being a reflective funder is listening to our grant partners and tracking the evolving needs of learners from year to year. With 2024 underway, we're seeing notable trends across postsecondary education, including statewide efforts to align postsecondary education and the workforce and continued concerns about the return on investment of college necessitating more flexible models of delivery. Remaining aware of these trends allows us to tailor our grantmaking for meaningful impact. [Read more...](#)



Ascendium Welcomes Three Members to Education Philanthropy Team

Ascendium's Education Philanthropy is pleased to announce the arrival of three accomplished professionals to our team. Join us in welcoming Dr. Brittany Corde, Vinya Cherian Hershberger and Rachel Rogahn. Each contributes unique skills and experiences to strengthen our commitment to driving impactful, systemic change that improves the lives of learners from low-income backgrounds. [Read more...](#)



Grants to Community-Based Organizations Aim to Strengthen Workforce-Aligned Training Pathways for Rural Learners

Historic investment by the federal government has accelerated the need for rural training pathways that lead to good jobs. Ascendium recently made grants to several organizations embedded in rural communities that are well-positioned to respond to opportunities like this. With our funding, these organizations will explore their role in creating and strengthening pathways to good jobs for rural learners from low-income backgrounds. [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.

- [Stay Informed Fall 2023](#) (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center)

Recent Grants

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Beyond Transfer
Sova Solutions | \$325,000 | 12/2023 - 11/2026

This grant supports Sova in improving equity in transfer and credit mobility by exploring the role of accreditors in reforming institutional policies and practices that pose barriers to transfer student success.

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Technical Assistance for Teaching and Learning Initiative
University of Puget Sound | \$598,500 | 01/2024 - 06/2025

This grant supports the University of Puget Sound in designing and beginning to create resources and trainings aimed at improving teaching and learning within college classrooms in prison. An initial project will focus on identifying and codifying promising practices for preparing faculty to teach in carceral settings.

Establishing a State University of New York Prison Education Network
The Research Foundation for SUNY | \$3,001,200 | 01/2024 - 12/2026

This grant supports the State University of New York (SUNY) in expanding its postsecondary education in prison programs and solidifying the SUNY Office of Higher Education in Prison as the convener of and technical assistance provider for programs on 20 SUNY campuses.

Unlocking Pathways to Upward Mobility: Building Bridges from Prison to Employment with Unlocked Labs
Unlocked Labs | \$1,720,000 | 11/2023 - 10/2026

This grant supports Unlocked Labs in continuing to develop innovative tech-focused educational content and pathways to employment for justice-impacted individuals, as well as exploring funding models that can effectively sustain its programming.

Field Support and Development

Landscape of Funder Collaboratives
Grantmakers For Education | \$8,500 | 12/2023 - 11/2024

This grant supports Grantmakers for Education in conducting a landscape mapping and analysis to connect funders with new or established postsecondary and workforce training co-funding initiatives.

Supporting Work Shift and The Job's National Reporting on Workforce Training Pathways
Open Campus Media Inc | \$420,000 | 12/2023 - 11/2025

This grant supports Work Shift News, a project of Open Campus Media, in continuing and expanding its reporting focused on trends, opportunities, and challenges in postsecondary education and workforce training.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

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

Louisiana Board of Regents: 2024 Meauxmentum Summit

Baton Rouge, LA
Feb. 7-8, 2024

Community College Baccalaureate Association: CCBA Conference 2024

Savannah, GA
Feb. 14-16, 2024

Achieving the Dream: DREAM 2024

Orlando, FL
Feb. 19-22, 2024

National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students: NISTS Annual Conference

St. Louis, MO
Feb. 21-23, 2024

SXSW EDU Conference & Festival

Austin, TX
March 4-7, 2024

Peak Grantmaking: PEAK2024 Seattle

Seattle, WA
March 18-20, 2024

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