



### Building Data-Driven Pathways to Good Jobs Through Community Partnerships

How can postsecondary education and workforce training institutions help ensure that talent pipelines for good jobs are effective, equitable, and data-driven? Two new grants that focus on community partnerships to support developing pathways informed by labor market data may help answer this question. [Read more...](#)



### A State-Level Approach to Prison Education

Image courtesy of Mount Tamalpais College.

### State-Level Initiatives Paving the Way for Postsecondary Education in Prison

In order to address barriers facing incarcerated learners, it's imperative that we put our support behind state-level actors such as departments of corrections, which wield control over both access to and the allocation of resources for education in prison. Collaboration between these state-level actors and public universities and university systems is vital to creating high-quality postsecondary education in prison programs that set learners up for success upon release. [Read more...](#)



### Michigan Community College Association Lays the Groundwork for State-Level Policy Changes

The Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) is a leading advocate for postsecondary education and workforce development in Michigan, collaborating with the right people to implement and scale effective programs as well as informing state-level representatives of what student success could look like for thousands of learners in the state. The efforts of organizations like MCCA help lay the groundwork for program and policy changes that result in improvements to postsecondary education and workforce training systems. [Read more...](#)

## Recent Grants

### Remove Structural Barriers to Success

**Strengthening Developmental Reform Education Implementation**

**The Education Trust, Inc. | \$450,000 | 01/2024 - 12/2025**

This grant supports The Education Trust-West in providing technical assistance to teams from up to 16 California institutions to develop and implement plans for scaled developmental education reform pursuant to state legislative mandates.

### Streamline Key Learner Transitions

**Strategies to Support Holistic Credit Mobility**

**Ithaka Harbors, Inc. | \$1,220,400 | 03/2024 - 08/2026**

This grant supports Ithaka S+R in identifying and documenting learning from postsecondary institutions that are implementing strategies to recognize and apply credits as learners move across educational settings. Ithaka S+R will facilitate peer learning and develop resources to help institutions in better supporting learner and credit mobility, thereby saving learners time and money and increasing their chances of success.

### Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

**Launching the New England Prison Higher Education Collaborative**

**New England Board of Higher Education | \$6,762,442 | 02/2024 - 01/2029**

This grant supports the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) in catalyzing collaboration across and within its six New England member states to increase the quantity and quality of postsecondary education offerings in prison. As the first regional prison education collaborative, NEBHE will serve as a convener, technical assistance provider, research hub, and funder for the participating states.

**Building a Multi-Sector Consensus for Expansion of Postsecondary Education in Virginia's Prisons**

**Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy | \$749,900 | 02/2024 - 01/2026**

This grant supports the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) in establishing a statewide coalition focused on increasing high-quality postsecondary education in prison in Virginia. VICCP will raise awareness about postsecondary education in prison and Pell Grant restoration for incarcerated learners and identify and recruit coalition partners.

### Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

**Building Rural Community Learning Systems: Education to Employment Partnerships**

**Columbus Learning Center Management Corporation | \$1,600,000 | 03/2024 - 12/2026**

This grant supports CivicLab, a project of the Columbus Learning Center Management Corporation, in developing the education-to-employment partnerships in 10 rural communities. CivicLab will support rural postsecondary education and workforce training providers and employers to partner in developing and implementing plans to strengthen talent development ecosystems so that rural learners have paths to good jobs in their communities.

### Field Support and Development

**Developing Quality Postsecondary Education Reporting**

**Education Writers Association | \$185,000 | 02/2024 - 01/2025**

This grant supports the Education Writers Association in increasing the quality and volume of national postsecondary education media coverage by hosting a national seminar, developing online resources, and providing micro-fellowships to new journalists working on stories that highlight solutions to support learners from low-income backgrounds.

**Rural Impact Podcast Series**

**Impact! Communications, Inc. | \$25,000 | 02/2024 - 01/2025**

This grant supports Impact! Communications, Inc. in producing seven podcast episodes, as part of their Rural Impact podcast series, focused on postsecondary education and workforce training access and success for rural adults.

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

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

### Achieving the Dream: DREAM 2024

Orlando, FL  
Feb. 19-22, 2024

- Jessa Valentine, facilitator, "Fast Track to Success? A Mixed Methods Study of Accelerated Course Formats"

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

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

- Valerie Crespín-Trujillo, presenter, "Demystifying Credit Transfer and Faculty (and Staff) Decision-making"

### SXSW EDU Conference & Festival

Austin, TX  
March 4-7, 2024

### Peak Grantmaking: PEAK2024 Seattle

Seattle, WA  
March 18-20, 2024

### Coleridge Initiative: 4th Annual National Convening: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Data Collaboration for the Public Good

Arlington, VA  
March 18-20, 2024

### Workforce Matters: Further Together: Advancing Equity through Workforce Philanthropy

Alexandria, VA  
April 2-4, 2024

### The Wharton School: The Business Case for Second Chance Employment Conference

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
April 4, 2024

### **American Association of Community Colleges: Annual Conference: Racing Toward a Better Future**

Louisville, KY  
April 5-9, 2024

### **Correctional Education Association: 2024 Forum**

Dallas-Addison, TX  
April 7-9, 2024

### ASU + GSV Summit: Here Comes the Sun

San Diego, CA  
April 14-17, 2024

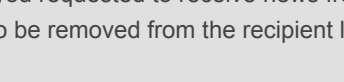
### The Council for the Study of Community Colleges: 65th Annual Conference

Pittsburgh, PA  
April 18-20, 2024

- Keith Witham, presenter, "Foundation Leaders Discuss Funding Strategies for Community College Researchers"

= Ascendium is a proud sponsor

## Follow us on social media!



[Our Philanthropy](#) | [Our Team Members](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

You are receiving this email because you requested to receive news from Ascendium or are participating in an Ascendium project. To be removed from the recipient list, [unsubscribe here](#).

Ascendium Education Group, Inc. & Affiliates  
38 Buttonwood Court  
Madison, WI 53718

[Add us to your address book](#)

SENT BY [news@ascendiumeducation.org](mailto:news@ascendiumeducation.org)