



Q&A: UIA's Bridget Burns on Helping Struggling Students Get Back on Track (Part 1)

Students who receive a D or F or withdraw (DFW) from a course often stall out and can risk losing future financial aid. At many institutions, learners from low-income backgrounds make up a disproportionate percentage of this group. University Innovation Alliance's founding CEO spoke with us about an innovative solution to identify DFW patterns and help these learners recover credits and regain momentum towards completion. [Read more...](#)



Updated Tool Saves Time and Money to Improve Learner Outcomes

The City University of New York (CUNY) and Ithaca S+R have updated their CUNY Transfer Explorer tool. The tool, which allows learners to see how prior learning experiences will apply in the CUNY system, now provides more upfront information to learners, faculty, and staff so they can better plan educational paths. When learners, especially those from low-income backgrounds, have accurate information about how their previous learning and experience will count, they are more likely to complete their program and reach their education goals. [Read more...](#)



Helping Learners See a Clearer Path: Awareness Continues to Build Around Guided Pathways Framework

The guided pathways framework is a whole-college redesign of the student experience that helps learners explore, choose, plan, and complete programs aligned with their education and career goals. It can be especially helpful to learners from low-income backgrounds as it more clearly outlines their program with considerations to efficiency and affordability. As leaders in developing, evaluating, and implementing the guided pathways framework, Community College Research Center (CCRC) continues to build awareness of this targeted reform strategy. [Read more...](#)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Supporting Provosts for Student Success Transformation in State Systems
Sova Solutions | \$1,773,700 | 09/2023 - 03/2026

This grant supports Sova, in partnership with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, in accelerating institutional student success reforms in four states by aligning those reforms with state-level policy and creating a network of state teams to provide cross-state learning and support.

Academic Planning for Equitable Student Success

American Association of State Colleges and Universities | \$740,000 | 07/2023 - 12/2024

This grant supports the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in helping a cohort of 10-12 colleges to analyze and optimize their course schedules for equitable student success.

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Formerly Incarcerated Leaders Fellowship
Rockwood Leadership Institute | \$938,239 | 08/2023 - 08/2025

This grant supports Rockwood Leadership Institute in developing and piloting a professional learning cohort for formerly incarcerated leaders working within the field of postsecondary education in prison.

State Policy Barriers for Students Impacted by the Justice System

Education Commission of the States | \$398,101 | 08/2023 - 04/2025

This grant supports the Education Commission of the States in addressing state-level policy gaps and opportunities to strengthen postsecondary education in prison. Its convenings, reports, and policy monitoring will inform and encourage state action supportive of incarcerated learners.

Field Support and Development

Supporting the Future U. Podcast 7th Season
Academic Intelligence | \$60,000 | 08/2023 - 07/2024

This grant supports Academic Intelligence in producing the Future U. podcast series, which features interviews with national thought leaders and innovators working to improve student success in postsecondary education. Future U. will produce four episodes that specifically explore issues related to and insights generated from Ascendium's grantmaking.

Supporting National Reporting on Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training
Teachers College, Columbia University | \$350,000 | 08/2023 - 07/2025

This grant supports *The Hechinger Report* (*Hechinger*), a publication of the Teachers College at Columbia University, in producing high-quality reporting on emerging trends, challenges, and promising solutions in postsecondary education and workforce training. While continuing to distribute content through its primary website and newsletter outlets, *Hechinger* will broaden its reach via social media and by partnering with 200+ national news outlets.

Special Report: Modernizing Federal Policy to Serve Today's Students
Inside Higher Ed Inc. | \$50,000 | 07/2023 - 10/2023

This grant supports *Inside Higher Education* in producing a special report: "Modernizing Federal Policy to Serve Today's Students." The report will include an in-depth analysis of the impact of state and federal postsecondary education policy on working learners, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, and highlight opportunities for modernizing federal policy to better meet the needs of today's learners.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

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

🔗 **Rise Up: Virtual Rise Up Conference 2023**
Sept. 6-8, 2023

🔗 **Rural Community College Alliance: RCCA 2023 National Conference**
The Dalles, OR
Sept. 20-22, 2023

The Communications Network: ComNet23
Atlanta, GA
Sept. 20-22, 2023

🔗 **Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness: SREE 2023 Conference**
Arlington, VA
Sept. 27-30, 2023

- Jessa Valentine and Bethany Miller, presenters.

🔗 **Excelencia in Education: Examples of Excelencia**
Washington, D.C.
Sept. 28, 2023

🔗 **Excelencia in Education: National Policy Forum**
Washington, D.C.
Sept. 29, 2023

🔗 **Competency-Based Education Network: CBExchange 2023**
Amelia Island, FL
Oct. 3-6, 2023

American Evaluation Association: Evaluation 2023
Indianapolis, IN
Oct. 9-14, 2023

- Bethany Miller, panelist, "Approaches to Evaluating Systems Change: A Discussion with Three Funders"

🔗 **Grantmakers for Education: 2023 Annual Conference**
Atlanta, GA
Oct. 10-12, 2023

- Molly Lasagna, panelist, "Building Networks: Pathways to Postsecondary Success for Incarcerated Learners"
- Molly Lasagna and Valerie Crespín-Trujillo, presenters, "Equity in Grantmaking Practice: Exploring Internal Change and External Collaboration"

🔗 **National College Attainment Network: 2023 National Conference**
Dallas, TX
Oct. 16-18, 2023

- Molly Lasagna, presenter, "Building the Bridge to Close the Distance: Increasing Access to Higher Education in Prison"

The Center for Effective Philanthropy: CEP2023
Boston, MA
Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2023

🔗 = 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

© 2023 Ascendium Education Group, Inc. & Affiliates All rights reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#).