



Keith Witham Reflects on His First Six Months as Vice President of Education Philanthropy

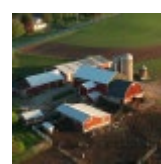
Halfway through his first year as Vice President of Education Philanthropy, Keith Witham provides an overview of the past six months of Ascendium's grantmaking. He also looks ahead, reaffirming Ascendium's commitment to transforming the lives of learners from low-income backgrounds through postsecondary education and workforce training. [Read more...](#)



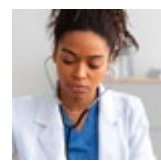
Ascendium's Molly Lasagna and Others Discuss the State of Postsecondary Education in Prison

At Cap Times Idea Fest last month, Ascendium Senior Program Officer Molly Lasagna moderated a panel discussion addressing some of the most pressing issues facing postsecondary education in prison. Check out the hourlong session to learn (1) what community-based organizations can do to strengthen supports for individuals reentering their communities and (2) what reforms are most urgent as the field engages with the reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated learners. [Watch now...](#)

Additional Ascendium News



[Strategic Media Partnerships Amplify Solutions to Rural Learners' Challenges](#)



[Aligning Postsecondary Education Programs and Workforce Demands to Help Learners Access Good Jobs](#)

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.

- [Learning from Students: How Teams Rethink Their STEM Transfer Process Through Student Input](#) (University of Washington)
- [Modernizing Postsecondary Policy to Better Support Adult Learners](#) (Inside Higher Ed)
- [A State Policy Framework for Developmental Education Reform](#) (Education Commission of the States)
- [Translating Opportunity: Improving Postsecondary Pathways for Multilingual Learners of English](#) (WestEd)
- [Workforce Alignment Study: Maximizing Workforce Success for College Students](#) (Urban Institute)

Recent Grants

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

[Catalyzing Technical Assistance for Postsecondary Education in Prison](#)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | \$300,000 | 09/2023 - 08/2024

This grant supports the Education Justice Project at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in refining and distributing resources that help incarcerated learners transition from prison classrooms to free-world campuses and meaningful employment.

Field Support and Development

[Curricular Analytics Transfer Exchange](#)
Colorado State University | \$50,000 | 09/2023 - 12/2023

This grant supports the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities at Colorado State University in exploring the viability of data definitions and standards for making transparent how credits apply to degree program requirements. Outcomes could include the development of a pilot for institutional reporting on degree program requirements to inform a future national transfer student exchange system that helps students understand and plan degree pathways across two-year and four-year institutions.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

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

The Center for Effective Philanthropy: CEP2023

Boston, MA
Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2023

 **The Alliance for Higher Education in Prison: 13th National Conference on Higher Education in Prison**

Atlanta, GA
Nov. 9-11, 2023

 **Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management: APPAM Fall Research Conference**

Atlanta, GA
Nov. 9-11, 2023

 **Association for the Study of Higher Education: 48th Annual ASHE Conference**

Minneapolis, MN
Nov. 15-18, 2023

 **Talent Hubs: Annual Convening**


Mobile, AL
Dec. 4-7, 2023

 **College Advising Corps: Annual Summit**

San Diego, CA
Dec. 4-7, 2023

 **Complete College America: Annual Convening: Future Ready**

Las Vegas, NV
Dec. 10-12, 2023

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