



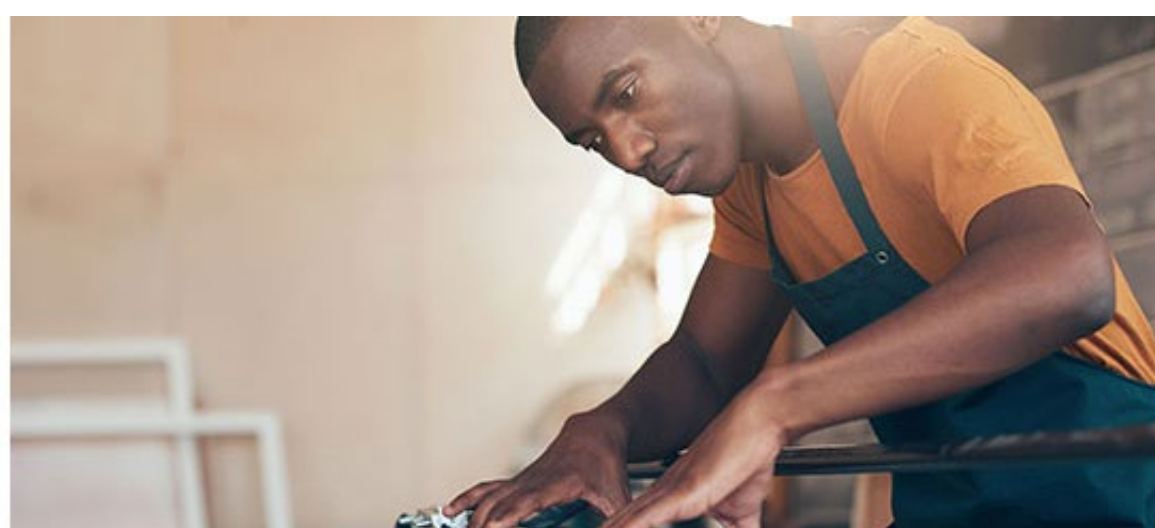
### Introducing our New Deputy Director of Education Grantmaking, Dr. Janice Hicks

Ascendium is pleased to welcome Dr. Janice Hicks to our Education Philanthropy team as our new deputy director of education grantmaking. Janice will support grantmaking across portfolios focused on strategies to transform postsecondary education institutions and systems to better serve learners from low-income backgrounds. [Read more...](#)



### Ascendium Acts on Grant Partner Feedback to Refine Philanthropic Practices

Director of Learning and Impact Bethany Miller reflects on the Center for Effective Philanthropy's recent survey of Ascendium's 2022 grant partners. Overall, respondents reported positive perceptions of Ascendium's performance as a funder. They also identified areas for improvement that we are committed to acting on, including convening our grant partners more and better communicating our strategies and goals. [Read more...](#)



### New Resources Aim to Increase Understanding of CBE Program Designs

A new framework and accompanying research brief from American Institutes for Research and the Competency-Based Education Network aims to improve understanding of competency-based education (CBE) program design at colleges and universities in the U.S. These new resources also explore an intentional approach to CBE program design by practitioners, with goals of facilitating rigorous research on the efficacy of key design elements and supporting stronger program design that leads to positive learner outcomes. [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.

- [Prison Education Program Web Center](#) (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)

### Recent Grants

#### Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

##### THEI Technical Assistance

**Tennessee Higher Education Initiative Inc | \$1,105,000 | 11/2023 - 05/2026**

This grant supports the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative Inc in developing student-facing resources, providing technical assistance to the Tennessee Department of Correction, and providing training and support to other prison education programs nationally.

#### Field Support and Development


##### Supporting National Reporting on Postsecondary Education in Prison and Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training


**Open Campus Media Inc | \$850,000 | 11/2023 - 10/2025**


This grant supports Open Campus Media Inc in continuing and expanding its reporting focused on postsecondary education and workforce training issues impacting learner populations at the core of Ascendium's philanthropic mission, including incarcerated learners and rural learners from low-income backgrounds.


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

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

 **Association for the Study of Higher Education: 48<sup>th</sup> 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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