



Education Philanthropy Program

Ascendium is working to change postsecondary and workforce training systems so that all learners have equitable opportunities for socioeconomic mobility. Our grantmaking focuses on removing systemic barriers faced by learners from low-income backgrounds, especially those in historically underrepresented groups: first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color and veterans.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Ascendium's investment priorities in this focus area are designed to help postsecondary providers remove barriers—whether policy, procedure or practice—that too often prevent learners from low-income backgrounds from completing their education goals.

An investment priority to...

Create conditions for institutional and system readiness for learner success reforms

Means we support...

- Identifying misaligned policies and practices that reduce the efficacy of learner success reforms
- Developing learner-centered postsecondary leaders in roles across institutions and systems

Which will lead to...

- Networks of institutions and systems achieve more equitable learner outcomes
- Networks and systems better understanding the financial impacts of learner success reforms
- Leadership development that contributes to equitable student success

An investment priority to...

Support the development and evaluation of promising approaches and interventions to increase completion rates and decrease time to degree

Means we support...

- Seeding the exploration of innovative ideas
- Conducting mixed methods evaluations to determine the efficacy and scalability of interventions

Which will lead to...

- Creation of evidence supporting reforms that lead to more equitable learner outcomes
- Stakeholders having a better understanding of what works to drive equitable learner outcomes

An investment priority to...

Support the widespread adoption of evidence-based institutional and system policies and practices that drive equitable student outcomes

Means we support...

- Scaling effective practices that ensure learners complete degrees or credentials without excess credits
- Enhancing data infrastructure to maximize its use for decision making and information sharing

Which will lead to...

- Institutions adopting developmental education reforms at scale
- More learners enrolling in and completing gateway courses during their first year
- Institutions prioritizing course availability and advising in a way that decreases time to degree and unnecessary credit accumulation

Visit ascendiumphilanthropy.org to learn more.