



Courtesy of Prison University Project

## 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

## Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Ascendium supports efforts that can help the field better understand what types of postsecondary education in prison programs are effective, how to forge the systemic and institutional partnerships needed to get them in place and how to spread and sustain best practices on a broad scale to catalyze systemic change.

### An investment priority to...

Implement new practices and scale proven high-quality postsecondary education in prison models

### Means we support...

- Existing efforts that increase student access and success at scale
- Addressing common challenges through new approaches or solutions

### Which will lead to...

- Increasing innovative program design and new ways of delivering instruction and student supports
- Increasing employer partnerships and career pathways that are relevant to regional workforce needs
- Increasing quality in postsecondary education in prison instruction and curricula
- Increasing the number and percentage of incarcerated learners who enroll in and complete their program of study

### An investment priority to...

Develop a better understanding of incarcerated learners through data and research

### Means we support...

- Building practical applications and shared data capacity in programs, institutions and systems
- Identifying key research priorities and generating new knowledge

### Which will lead to...

- Supporting institution and system partners to develop robust data collection, interpretation and reporting practices across a relevant set of outcomes
- Enabling trend assessment in incarcerated learner outcomes on state and national levels
- Generating new knowledge about how to amplify incarcerated learner success

### An investment priority to...

Support strategic partnerships between postsecondary education, correction systems, employers and community-based organizations

### Means we support...

- Developing and implementing a vision for increasing system-wide access to a coordinated array of high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials
- Removing barriers to program quality, accessibility and learner academic and career success through systemwide collaboration

### Which will lead to...

- States developing, implementing or readying system-wide strategies
- Developing interconnectivity, communication and partnerships across agencies, systems and organizations
- Removing prohibitive policies, practices, incapacities and cultural barriers imposed by systems
- Increasing the number of learners/prison facilities served by high quality programs

Visit [ascendiumphilanthropy.org](https://ascendiumphilanthropy.org) to learn more.