



College Math Instructors Praise Timely Training for Online Teaching

Reacting to the sudden shift to online instruction driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 300 faculty teaching entry-level math courses learned ways this summer to adapt their teaching to online delivery, thanks to grants from Ascendium and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grants supported the Charles A. Dana Center's ongoing work designing and piloting the National Virtual Professional Learning Series.

[Read more...](#)



Vera Institute of Justice Works to Develop Guidelines and Supports for Postsecondary Education in Prison

Learn how Ascendium's grant to Vera Institute of Justice is laying the groundwork for system-wide change with FAFSA and Second Chance Pell support.

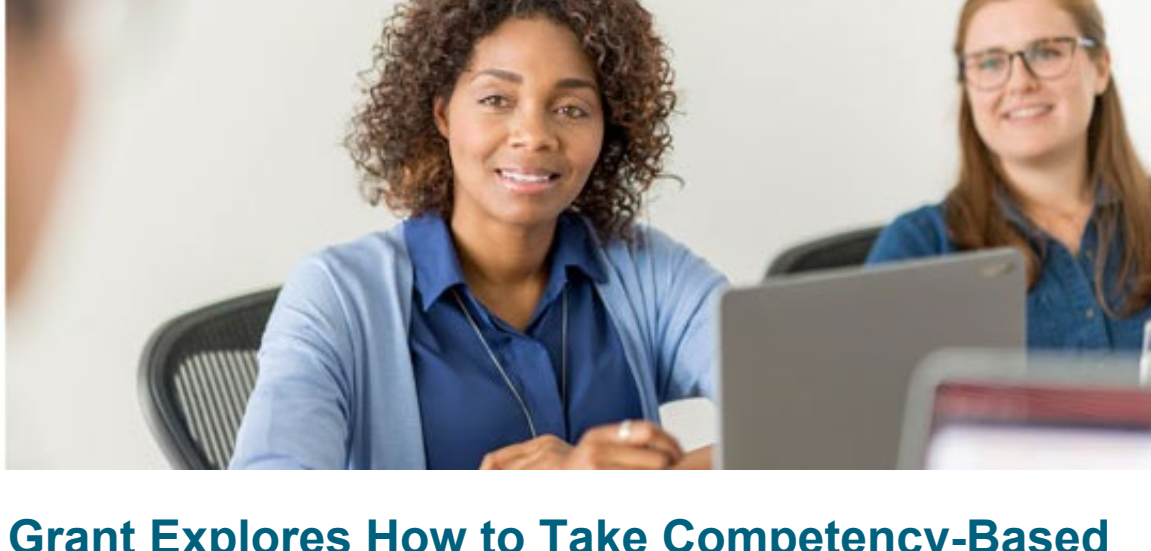
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Podcasts Raise Up Leaders in Rural Places

Ascendium's philanthropy supports work that helps build collaboration and partnership to support rural learners from enrollment to workforce entry. A series of Rural Matters podcasts explores how several leaders are working to advance college and career goals of learners in rural communities.

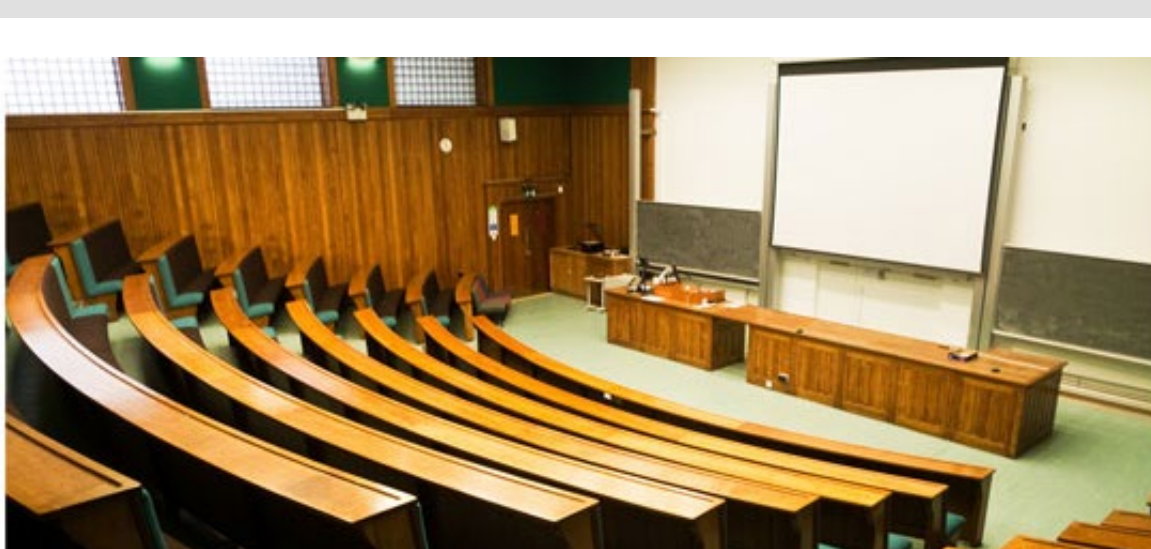
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Grant Explores How to Take Competency-Based Education to a System Level

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System Foundation is launching a yearlong planning project to research what it would take to implement a competency-based education platform at scale within its general education, career, technical and workforce training programs. Ascendium's investment of \$614,000 supports the project under our grantmaking focus area **Streamline Key Learner Transitions**.

[Learn more about why we see this grant as part of our mission](#) to improve equity in postsecondary education.



"First Look" NSC Report Shows COVID-19 Impact on Student Transfer Muted

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT: The **National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's "First Look" report** on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on transfer students shows transfers from two-year to four-year colleges are up slightly, but an expected transfer pattern from four-year to two-year institutions has not materialized.

The pandemic's greater impact appears to be first-time and returning students deciding not to enroll this fall. This is the first of a nine-report series Ascendium has co-sponsored with ECMC Foundation.

[Read more...](#)

New Resources

Promise and Challenges of Guided Pathways

The Center for Community College Student Engagement has issued **"Building Momentum: Using Guided Pathways to Redesign the Student Experience,"** a report that for the first time gathers and presents national baseline data on student and faculty perceptions of guided pathways practices.

Commissioned by the Association for American Colleges & Universities and funded by a grant from Ascendium, the report documents the early promise guided pathways offer but finds more work is needed to increase faculty engagement.

How to Encourage College Summer Enrollment

A **new report from MDRC** presents findings from the final Encouraging Additional Summer Enrollment (EASE) project, which tested interventions designed to simplify enrollment decisions and promote registration for summer classes. Interventions included behavioral insights and a financial incentive with the goal to increase enrollment rates, showing a positive impact and increase in enrollment rates. Ascendium funded the EASE project with a \$3.2 million grant over four years to test and quantify the impact of strategies to improve community college persistence and completion by increasing the number of students who enroll in summer term.

Center for Community College Student Engagement

mdrc
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
TO IMPROVE SOCIAL POLICY

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

Ascendium Education Group has cancelled all staff travel plans until further notice due to COVID-19 concerns, but we are supporting and attending virtual events. We hope everyone stays safe and we look forward to participating in live events in the coming months. We will continue to share past virtual event recordings, resource links and future opportunities to connect with Ascendium staff.

In case you missed it! Three recent virtual forums with our partners at The Chronicle of Higher Education are still available:

- "What it Takes to be a Student-Centered Institution Now" September 10 (**recorded webinar**)
- "Transfer Students as a Key to Institutional Resilience" September 29 (**recorded webinar**)
- "Resilient Rural Colleges" October 14 (**recorded webinar**)

Education Writers Association: "Pathways to Good Jobs" Seminar December 10-11

Grantmakers for Education

January 7, 2021

Toya Wall, presenter: "The New Traditional Learner: Strategic Investment to Advance Incarcerated Student Success Learning"

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