You are receiving this email because you requested to receive news from Ascendium or are participating in future opportunities to connect with Ascendium staff. We will continue to share past virtual event recordings, resource links and everyone stays safe and we look forward to participating in live events in the coming months. We are supporting and attending virtual events. We hope 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 you are doing well and your team. We wish you strength.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

Learn more about two of our focus areas:

- **Higher Education for Incarcerated and Rural Students** - Download the newly released article collection "A College Lifeline: Advance Incarcerated Student Success" to read more about our work in prison programs.
- **Education in Prison Programs** - A 2019 report, "The Landscape of Higher Education in Prison 2018-2019," from The Chronicle of Higher Education, as well as their "it matters" series on rural education, are available to read more about our work in prison programs.

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**Recent Grants**

- **Supporting Higher Education Access and Workforce Training**
  - Institute for College Access & Success | $65,000 | 11/2020 - 08/2021
  - Kent State University at Lima | $100,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021
  - Morgan State University | $196,500 | 09/2020 - 08/2021

- **Investing in Key Learner Transitions**
  - Denver Public Schools | $200,000 | 03/2020 - 08/2021
  - Northland College | $100,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021
  - University of Northern Colorado | $100,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021

- **Beyond High School to Transform the Lives of Learners from Low-Income Backgrounds**
  - Aspen Institute | $200,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021
  - The White House Initiative on HBCUs | $300,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021
  - The Lumina Foundation | $200,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021

- **Grantmaking Team**
  - Bethany Miller Joins the Education Grantmaking Team
    - Bethany Miller joins the Education Grantmaking Team.
  - Join us in welcoming Bethany Miller to Ascendium’s Education Grantmaking Team.

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**New Resources**

- **Review Comprehensive Postsecondary Education in Prison Program Data**
  - The Alliance for Higher Education Policy has issued a new review comprehensive postsecondary education in prison program data.

- **Learn More About Two of Our Focus Areas**
  - Industry expert will present the case for our work on prison programs and rural education.

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**COVID-19 Crisis and Transfer: What Institutions, Systems and States Can Do Today**

- The extraordinary events of 2020 brought many challenges to all our communities. While our national philanthropy is focused on the power of education and training operations, as well as inform the field in support of greater outcomes for transfer students, both in the short- and long-term.

- Aspen Institute provide recommendations that can be implemented today to improve development of these pathways. Ascendium-funded briefs recently produced by the Aspen Institute provide recommendations that can be implemented today to improve development of these pathways.

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**Giving Support to Our Local Community Throughout 2020**

- The Ascendium project team has stepped up our local giving to help address this year’s challenges.

- By the end of 2020, we expect to have supported local organizations in the amount of $500,000. Learn more about our local giving efforts.

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**Supporting Higher Education Access and Workforce Training**


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

- "Prison Programs Released by Vera Institute of Justice" feature is available to read more about our work in prison programs.

- Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) has released a new Ascendium-funded report outlining best practices for postsecondary education in prison programs.

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**New Resources**

- "Sowa Solutions | $120,000 | 11/2020 - 08/2021" - Sova Solutions in facilitating the creation of a Rural Research Agenda to outline key research questions for the field.

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**Recent Grants**

- "Delaware State University Foundation, Inc. | $216,200 | 09/2020 - 08/2021" - This grant supports the Delaware State University Foundation in piloting an online degree completion program for near-completer students in partnership with Southern New Hampshire University.

- "The Thurgood Marshall College Fund | $100,000 | 09/2020 - 08/2021" - This grant supports the Thurgood Marshall College Fund in piloting an online degree completion program for near-completer students in partnership with Southern New Hampshire University.

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

- A focus is on supporting and attending virtual events, particularly in the context of COVID-19 concerns. If you are supporting partnerships that match Ascendium’s focus areas, the team is interested in hearing from you. The team is flexible and responsive in this time of crisis.

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