



Ambitious Yet Vital: How Ohio is Preparing the STEM Workforce of Tomorrow

Ohio Strong Start in Science is a bid by the Ohio Department of Higher Education to address high failure rates in entry-level science courses and boost STEM workforce readiness. This initiative will revamp placement practices, curricula, and instruction in gateway biology and chemistry courses. By exploring corequisite redesign's potential and sharing insights, this project has the potential to ensure equitable learning opportunities and inspire nationwide adoption. [Read more...](#)



A Texas Community College Initiative Aims to Advance Equity and Opportunity for English-Language Learners

The Texas Community College Education Initiative is spearheading efforts to empower English-language learners (ELLs) by bridging the gap between English as a Second Language programs and community college credentials. Through targeted interventions and resource development, this initiative aims to facilitate seamless transitions for ELLs into postsecondary education and workforce training programs, advancing equity and opportunity in Texas. [Read more...](#)



Q&A: Carolynn Lee Discusses How Social Finance Institute Could Help Improve Outcomes for Learners

Social Finance, a national nonprofit, recently launched the Social Finance Institute. The Institute is a new initiative to increase learning and dissemination of insights from the nonprofit's decade of work to make postsecondary education and workforce training more accessible, affordable, and sustainable. In this Q&A, Deputy Director of Education Grantmaking Carolynn Lee shares what excites her about the innovative work and how it can lead to improved outcomes for learners from low-income backgrounds. [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.

- [Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Prison Education: Future Implications](#) (The RAND Corporation)
- [College and Career Possibilities Rooted in Place: How Rural Community College and Industry Partnerships Help People, Communities, and Businesses Thrive](#) (National Skills Coalition)
- [The Challenges and Benefits of Pursuing Bachelor's Programs at Rural-Serving Community Colleges](#) (New America)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Mobile-Enabled Learning Supports in Co-Requisite Courses in Louisiana University of Texas at Austin | \$1,865,800 | 05/2024 - 04/2027

This grant supports the University of Texas at Austin in evaluating the impact of a tech-enabled instructional innovation that provides personalized academic supports for learners enrolled in co-requisite developmental education courses at nine Louisiana colleges.

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

From Training to Employment: A Multi-Inquiry Study of Noncredit Workforce Training Programs

The Regents of the University of California, on behalf of its Irvine campus | \$1,605,800 | 05/2024 - 06/2028

This grant supports the University of California at Irvine in partnering with the Virginia Community College System to assess impacts of noncredit workforce training programs on learners' labor market outcomes and to examine effectiveness of an innovative state-wide policy designed to incentivize student enrollment in and completion of noncredit programs in high-demand fields.

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Expanding Rural Guided Pathways
New Venture Fund | \$4,200,000 | 10/2024 - 12/2027

This grant supports the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement in expanding comprehensive "guided pathways" student success reforms at rural community colleges. The expansion will support the existing cohort of 16 colleges in strengthening their reform efforts and add a cohort of 16 additional rural colleges.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

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

- 🔗 **Tennessee Higher Education Initiative: She Changes Everything Conference**
Nashville, TN
May 23, 2024
- 🔗 **Education Writers Association: 77th National Seminar**
Las Vegas, NV
May 29-June 1, 2024
- 🔗 **Community Colleges of Appalachia: 31st Annual Conference**
Asheville, NC
June 9-11, 2024
- 🔗 **Association of College and University Educators: National Higher Education Teaching Conference 2024: Accelerating Student Success and Belonging**
Minneapolis, MN
June 13-14, 2024
 - Sue Cui, panelist, "Effective Teaching and Pathways Design for Multilingual Learners"
- National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators: 2024 NASFAA National Conference**
Milwaukee, WI
June 16-19, 2024
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities: AASCU Summer Meeting for Academic and Student Affairs Leaders**
Denver, CO
July 16-19, 2024
- Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives: ACCE24 Evolve**
Dallas, TX
July 16-19, 2024
- 🔗 **Jobs for the Future: Horizons 2024 – The Power of Us**
Washington, D.C.
July 23-24, 2024

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