



\$69 Million+ in New Grants Highlighted by Investments in Job Pathways, Partnerships and More

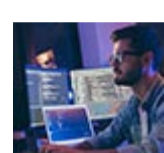
Ascendium's philanthropy is off to a fast start in 2023 with the recent approval of 34 grants totaling over \$69 million. Included in these grants is support for initiatives to connect learners from low-income backgrounds with good jobs, strengthen conditions for partnerships to emerge between colleges and employers, invest in high-quality postsecondary education in prison systems and more. [Read more...](#)



Jessa Valentine Joins Learning and Impact Team

Ascendium's Learning and Impact team is excited to kick off 2023 with the hire of Dr. Jessa Valentine. Jessa is an experienced researcher and evaluator and joins the team as a senior learning and impact officer. In her new role, Jessa will be overseeing our investments in validation grants focused on determining the effectiveness of postsecondary education and workforce training reforms, along with identifying the conditions that contribute to success. [Read more...](#)

Additional Ascendium News



[CORI Research on Digital Skilling is Put into Practice](#)



[The Power of Media to Advance Change for Learners](#)

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.

- [Future Opportunities for Rural Workforce and Rural Development \(FORWARD\) Curriculum](#) (Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities)
- [Recommendations to Inform the U.S. Department of Education's Research and Evaluation Set-Aside Authority](#) (Institute for Higher Education Policy)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Scaling Academic Recovery Interventions
University Innovation Alliance | \$2,500,000 | 12/2022 - 06/2025

This grant supports the University Innovation Alliance in scaling Georgia State University's Accelerator Academy program to 10 member institutions. The Accelerator Academy, comprising a suite of comprehensive interventions with demonstrated success, will allow institutions to target students at risk of falling behind or not completing a degree due to a D, F or W (Withdrawn) in critical coursework.

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Building a National Apprenticeship Intermediary Infrastructure
Apprenticeships for America Inc | \$500,000 | 02/2023 - 01/2025

This grant supports Apprenticeships for America in creating the first national network of apprenticeship intermediaries in the U.S. and developing research to support the role of intermediaries with the goal of expanding apprenticeship opportunities nationwide.

Actualizing Community Vibrancy Metrics
Achieving the Dream Inc | \$1,244,600 | 12/2022 - 05/2024

This grant supports Achieving the Dream (ATD) in helping its member colleges collect and use learner- and community-level data to drive college-wide reform. ATD will pilot the use of its new Community Vibrancy metrics framework with 15 colleges, learning how the metrics can be applied to drive change and produce tools and a training curriculum to support broader adoption across ATD's 300+ member institutions.

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Jesuit Prison Education
Loyola University New Orleans | \$1,200,000 | 12/2022 - 11/2025

This grant supports the Jesuit Prison Education Network (JPEN), a nationwide coalition of Jesuit colleges, in developing best practices and sharing resources to strengthen postsecondary education in prison programs across the network. JPEN and its research center, the Jesuit Social Research Institute, will strengthen the capacity of member programs to evaluate and build capacity for continuous improvement.

Helping the Field Prepare for Pell Reinstatement
Vera Institute of Justice Inc | \$1,400,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2024

This grant supports Vera Institute of Justice in providing technical assistance, training and advising to new and existing Second Chance Pell college sites and their state corrections system partners. The goal of these activities is to ensure the implementation of high-quality postsecondary education in prison and to help the field prepare for the full restoration of Pell Grants for incarcerated learners on July 1, 2023.

Field Support and Development

Different Voices of Student Success: Focus on Solutions
The Chronicle of Higher Education | \$750,000 | 12/2022 - 12/2023

This grant supports The Chronicle of Higher Education in developing content for its Different Voices of Student Success online resource center. This resource will showcase the voices of underserved students and identify barriers that exist among students, faculty members and leaders. It will also share best practices for improving student completion rates, upward mobility and the reskilling of workers.

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

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

- 📍 **National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students: Be a Connector for Transfer Student Success 2023 Annual Conference**
 Portland, OR
 Feb. 20-24, 2023
 - Carolyn Lee, presenter, "Holistic Credit Mobility: An innovative framework to foster credit and learning mobility"
- 📍 **United Way Dane County: Community Celebration**
 Madison, WI
 Mar. 1, 2023
- 📍 **SXSW EDU 2023**
 Austin, TX
 Mar. 6-9, 2023
- 📍 **Partners for Rural Impact: Rural Summit 2023 – Accelerating Success, Cradle to Career**
 Charlotte, NC
 Apr. 3-4, 2023
- 📍 **American Education Research Association Annual Meeting: Interrogating Consequential Education Research in Pursuit of Truth**
 Chicago, IL / Virtual
 Apr. 13-16, 2023 / May 4-5, 2023
- 📍 **ASU_GSV Summit: Brave New World**
 San Diego, CA
 Apr. 17-19, 2023
- 📍 **Peak Grantmaking: PEAK2023**
 Baltimore, MD
 May 5-10, 2023
- 📍 **Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: GEO National Conference**
 Washington, DC
 May 22-23, 2023

📍 = Ascendium is a proud sponsor

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