March 21, 2024

You are receiving this email because you requested to receive news from Ascendium or are participating in our newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming virtual and in-person events.

Recent Grants

Our grant partners regularly create resources that benefit organizations focused on student success. These resources are published to our website for your convenience.

New Resources

Ascendium’s Education Philanthropy Announces

Strategic Promotions to Elevate Impact

Ascendium is pleased to announce the promotions of three internal team members. In an effort to better serve our grant partners and strengthen our commitment to the evolving needs of learners from low-income backgrounds, Ascendium has promoted its Communications Manager, Kayla Gajewski, to the position of Communications Director. In her new role, Kayla will lead Ascendium’s communications strategy and oversee the team’s efforts to advance the organization’s mission and impact.

Additionally, Ascendium has promoted its Manager of Research and Impact, Staci Ruggles, to the position of Associate Director for Research and Impact. In her new role, Staci will lead Ascendium’s research and impact initiatives, including the evaluation of grantee programs and other research activities that support Ascendium’s strategic priorities.

Finally, Ascendium has promoted its Manager of Grant Partner Engagement, Gabriel Rangel, to the position of Director of Grant Partner Engagement. In his new role, Gabriel will lead Ascendium’s engagement efforts with grant partners, including the management of grantee site visits and the cultivation of new grantee relationships.

Recent Education Philanthropy Grant Announcements

The Talent Network (R-RTN) model to three additional rural communities in Texas. The institute is working with the Rural Education Commission of Texas (RECoT) to identify three rural communities in Texas that are committed to making a long-term commitment to the R-RTN model. The grant will support the implementation of the R-RTN model in these communities, which will include the development of partnerships between rural schools, colleges, and employers.

Innovative Teacher Preparation Programs

Texas Community College Education Initiative | $3,000,000 | 02/2024 - 12/2027

This grant supports the Texas Community College Education Initiative in aligning curricular structures that have been barriers to success for multilingual learners of color who are underrepresented in high-demand STEM career fields.

Supporting Competency-Based Teacher Education in Tennessee

University of Tennessee | $1,838,160 | 12/2023 - 12/2025

This grant supports the launch of the Institute for Competency-Based Teacher Education at the University of Tennessee. The institute will work with colleges, universities, and other partners to develop and implement competency-based teacher education programs that are aligned with the needs of rural communities.

Exploring Innovative Financing to Strengthen Pre-Apprenticeships

Social Finance | $1,024,900 | 02/2023 - 12/2024

This grant supports Social Finance in exploring innovative financing models to improve labor market outcomes for learners from low-income backgrounds. The grant will support Social Finance in developing new financing strategies that can be used to support pre-apprenticeships and other workforce development programs.

Mathematica Inc | $1,499,700 | 02/2024 - 01/2029

This grant supports Mathematica in conducting an evaluation that supports iterative improvements to the Tools of the Trade Scholarship Program to maximize the difference the scholarship makes for Wisconsin apprentices seeking upward mobility.

Community College Bachelor's Degrees in Texas: A First Look at Enrollment and Outcomes

National Skills Coalition: Skills Summit | April 29-May 1, 2024

The Council for the Study of Community Colleges: 65th Annual Conference | April 14-17, 2024

Partners for Rural Impact: Rural Summit 2024 | April 5-9, 2024

The Wharton School: The Business Case for Second Chance Employment | April 2-4, 2024

Workforce Matters: Further Together: Advancing Equity Through Workforce Development | May 2-4, 2024

St. Louis, MO

ABFE: 2024 Annual Harambee Conference

Pittsburgh, PA

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: 2024 National Conference

Addison, TX

Correctional Education Association: 2024 Forum