You are receiving this email because you requested to receive news from Ascendium or are participating in our email list on a regular basis. Click each link to access the new resources grant partners have shared over the past several months.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming virtual and in-person events. Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance regarding travel. We are committed to the safety of our staff and will continue to monitor and adapt our efforts as needed.

New Resources

On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

We encourage qualified individuals with an interest in postsecondary education in prison as it relates to systemic equity. It also educates the general public about the benefits of postsecondary opportunities for more equitable access to higher education for incarcerated individuals. One of our grant partners, the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison, is currently seeking its next executive director. This important role increases the visibility of the Alliance and helps advance the organization’s mission.

Ascendium’s philanthropy aims to expand postsecondary education in prison by helping organizations to address barriers facing currently incarcerated adults. These learners often don’t have equitable access to high-quality postsecondary education. We, along with our grant partners, have made a commitment to changing that. For the past nine years, apprentices with financial need in the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) have had the opportunity to apply for a $1,500 scholarship to help with the purchase of tools, clothing and equipment needed for their apprenticeship. Ascendium is pleased to share that through the Tools of the Trade Scholarship program, we supported 511 construction and industrial trade apprentices for the past year.

Over 500 Apprentices Receive Tools of the Trade Scholarships

Applications to participate in the second round of the data challenge are now open. Carrying forward the success and momentum from this first round, there is an urgent need to understand employment outcomes for workers and learners from low-income backgrounds. The Coleridge Initiative, a grant partner of Ascendium, recently announced 10 teams selected to participate in their Democratizing our Data Challenge. The challenge was designed to build on successful investments made by government agencies to collaborate, develop and scale tools that inform education and workforce policy. Each of the teams will be developing tools to address the opportunity gap and to inform policy around education and workforce development.

Postsecondary Education and Workforce Data Challenge: Democratizing Our Data

For the first time, the LaunchCode Foundation graduated a cohort of incarcerated learners from its foundational coding and web development training and employment course last month. Supported by Ascendium, the course provides coding instruction for Careers in Technology: Coding Course Prepares Incarcerated Learners for Careers in Technology

The 2022 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting is taking place in San Diego, CA and virtually from April 21-26, 2022. The AARC’s Landmark Report on RSIs with Andrew Koricich, Alisa Hicklin Fryar and Cecilia Orphan (Part II) is available. For more information, including the full report, please see their website.

AARC’s Landmark Report on RSIs with Andrew Koricich, Alisa Hicklin Fryar and Cecilia Orphan (Part II)

Jobs for the Future: Horizons 2022 will take place in New Orleans, LA from May 16-18, 2022. The American Association of Community Colleges’ Pathways to Success for Adult Learners Interactive Report and Data Toolkit can be found here. For more information, please visit their website or reach out to jobsforthefuture@jff.org.

Jobs for the Future: Horizons 2022

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: 2022 National Conference will take place in Denver, CO from May 3-4, 2022. For more information, please visit their website.

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: 2022 National Conference

Strong Start to Finish: 2022 Learning Network Convening will take place in Berea College and Education Forward Arizona: Rural College Access and Success Summit in Scottsdale, AZ from April 24-27, 2022. For more information, please visit their website.

Strong Start to Finish: 2022 Learning Network Convening

Berea College and Education Forward Arizona: Rural College Access and Success Summit

2022 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting: AARC’s Landmark Report on RSIs with Andrew Koricich, Alisa Hicklin Fryar and Cecilia Orphan (Part II)

Jobs for the Future: Horizons 2022

Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: 2022 National Conference

Strong Start to Finish: 2022 Learning Network Convening

Berea College and Education Forward Arizona: Rural College Access and Success Summit

2022 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting: AARC’s Landmark Report on RSIs with Andrew Koricich, Alisa Hicklin Fryar and Cecilia Orphan (Part II)