



## Coding Course Prepares Incarcerated Learners for Careers in Technology

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 incarcerated learners nearing release. The goal of the project is to increase workforce training opportunities and improve employment outcomes for incarcerated adults while providing a pathway to further education. [Read more...](#)



## Ascendium Invests in Projects that Link Postsecondary Education and Workforce Data

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 team has been working to develop and scale their innovative approaches to understanding employment outcomes for workers and learners from low-income backgrounds. Carrying forward the success and momentum from this first round, applications to participate in the second round of the data challenge are now open. [Read more...](#)

## Over 500 Apprentices Receive Tools of the Trade Scholarships

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 across the WTCS this year. [Read the news release...](#)

## Alliance for Higher Education in Prison Seeking Next Executive Director

Ascendium's philanthropy aims to expand postsecondary education in prison by addressing 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.

One of our grant partners, [Alliance for Higher Education in Prison](#), is currently seeking its next executive director. This important role increases the visibility of opportunities for more equitable access to higher education for incarcerated individuals. It also educates the general public about the benefits of postsecondary education in prison as it relates to systemic equity.

We encourage qualified individuals with an interest in postsecondary education in prison to apply. [Learn more...](#)

## New Resources

Our grant partners regularly create information resources that benefit organizations focused on student success. New resources are published to our [Resource Library](#) often. Click each link to access the new resources grant partners have shared over the past month.

- [AARC's Landmark Report on RSIs with Andrew Koricich, Alisa Hicklin Fryar and Cecilia Orphan \(Part II\)](#) (Rural Matters)
- [Employment & Wages for Adult Students Who Return to Community Colleges](#) (Tennessee Board of Regents - The College System of Tennessee)
- [Evaluation of the Minnesota Department of Corrections' Career Navigators Program Final Report](#) (RAND Corporation)
- [Pathways to Success for Adult Learners Interactive Report and Data Toolkit](#) (Tennessee Board of Regents - The College System of Tennessee)
- [Reentry Campus Program Guide for Replication](#) (Reentry Campus Program)

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

Ascendium is committed to the safety of our staff and will continue to monitor and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance regarding travel. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming virtual and in-person events.

### 2022 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting: Cultivating Equitable Education Systems for the 21st Century

San Diego, CA and Virtual  
April 21-26, 2022

### [Berea College and Education Forward Arizona: Rural College Access and Success Summit](#)

Scottsdale, AZ  
April 24-27, 2022

### [Virtual Institute for Educational Leadership: Partners for Community College Student Success and Economic Growth in Appalachia](#)

April 27-29, 2022

### [Strong Start to Finish: 2022 Learning Network Convening](#)


Denver, CO  
May 3-4, 2022

### [Grantmakers for Effective Organizations: 2022 National Conference](#)

Chicago, IL  
May 16-18, 2022

### [Jobs for the Future: Horizons 2022](#)

New Orleans, LA  
June 7-8, 2022

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