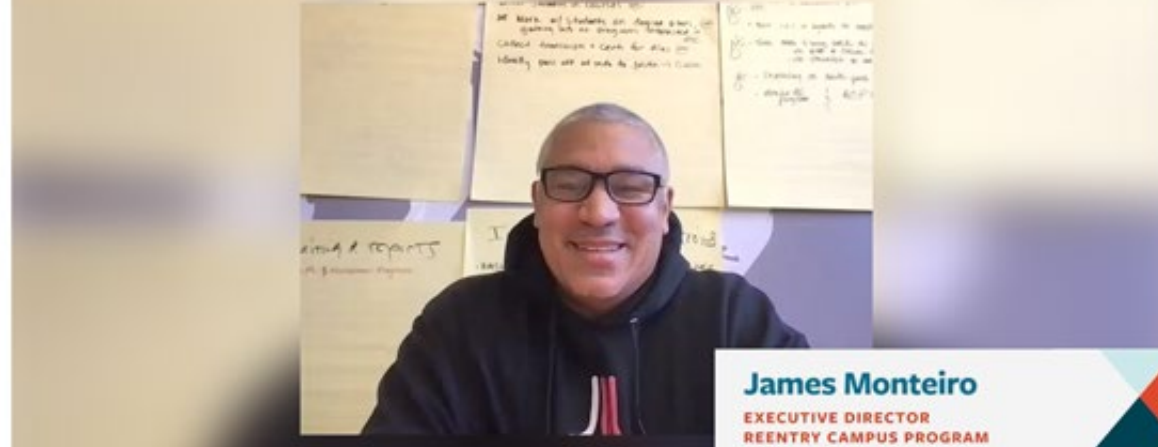




Over \$11 Million Invested in Grants to Support Community College Student Success, Postsecondary Completion and More

Recently, Ascendium approved new grants totaling over \$11 million. These grants support a range of work, including but not limited to, student success at community colleges, the organization of stakeholders across multiple states to address the challenges of postsecondary education in prison regionally and technical assistance to rural community colleges interested in applying for federal grant dollars. [Read more...](#)



Reentry Campus Program Takes Innovative Approach to Delivering Postsecondary Education in Prison

Ascendium recently provided support to Rhode Island's Reentry Campus Program (RCP), which helps accelerate currently and formerly incarcerated learners' academic progress using prior learning assessment and other support strategies. We connected with RCP Co-Founder and Executive Director James Monteiro about the inspiration behind RCP and the importance of prior learning assessment for incarcerated learners. [Read more...](#)

Education Philanthropy Team Welcomes New Hire with Community College System Expertise

Ascendium's Education Philanthropy is excited to share a new program officer has joined our team! Valerie Crespín-Trujillo will support strategic grantmaking in our Streamline Key Learner Transitions and Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training focus areas. Her valuable knowledge and experience with community college systems makes her a great addition to our team, and we look forward to exploring how those experiences can inform our future grantmaking. [Read more...](#)

White House Releases Playbook to Provide Guidance to Rural Governments

The White House has released a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rural Playbook in an effort to provide guidance to rural governments on how to apply and receive important infrastructure funding. We encourage leaders in rural communities to explore the links in the playbook to identify funding opportunities. Read the [Rural Playbook](#) and learn more about our own commitment to [Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training](#).

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.

- [Beyond Pell Restoration](#) (Alliance for Higher Education in Prison)
- [College Completion Strategy Guide](#) (MDRC)
- [Community College Baccalaureate Programs as an Equity Strategy](#) (New America)
- [Creating Seamless Pathways for Military Service Members: A Scaling Guide](#) (DVP-PRAXIS)
- [Micro-credentials for Social Mobility in Rural Postsecondary Communities: A Landscape Report](#) (Digital Promise)
- [Next Generation Sector Partnerships - A Benchmarking Framework](#) (Next Generation Sector Partnerships)
- [Next Gen Sector Partnerships Rural Field Guide](#) (Next Generation Sector Partnerships)
- [Profiling Next Generation Sector Partnerships](#) (Next Generation Sector Partnerships)
- [The Incredible Work of Education Design Lab & Partners \(Part III\)](#) (Rural Matters)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

No Holding Back: Using Data to Review and Revise Administrative Hold Policies among Public Postsecondary Institutions in the Western Region
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education | \$405,000 | 05/2022 - 10/2023

This grant supports the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, in partnership with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, in developing tools for institutions to use in evaluating the impact of their administrative hold policies and practices on equitable student success.

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Advancing Community College Students' Post-Graduation Success
The Aspen Institute Inc | \$2,000,000 | 06/2022 - 11/2025

This grant supports the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program in supporting a cohort of 10 community colleges to implement policy and practice reforms that will increase the post-graduation success of their students, namely students of color and learners from low-income backgrounds.

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Bringing Value-Based Bachelor's Degrees to Rural Community College Students
New America Foundation | \$1,100,000 | 05/2022 - 05/2025

This grant supports New America Foundation in building capacity at community colleges to create high-quality, affordable and workforce-driven baccalaureate programs. Community college baccalaureate programs provide new or expanded access to in-demand sectors, particularly for underserved populations such as adult learners and learners from low-income backgrounds in rural areas.

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.

Jobs for the Future: Horizons 2022


New Orleans, LA
June 7-8, 2022

The Vera Institute of Justice: 5th Annual Convening of Second Chance Pell Sites & Partners

Washington, DC
July 19-20, 2022

Correctional Education Association: 76th CEA International Conference & Training Event

Tampa, FL
Aug. 28-31, 2022

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