



### Targeted Investments Support Expansion of Evidence-Based Workforce Training Models

Short-term training is a streamlined pathway through postsecondary education that can lead to good, in-demand jobs and upward mobility. Ascendium has recently made several grants to workforce training organizations that explore, gather evidence, and support the scaling of high-quality short-term training programs. Our support of evaluation efforts also helps us, and the field, better understand the long-term impacts of these programs, which have the potential to help learners from low-income backgrounds reach their education and career goals. [Read more...](#)



### New Projects Examine Barriers for English-Language Learners

English-language learners are a diverse, rapidly growing subpopulation of learners who disproportionately come from low-income backgrounds. Community college programs dedicated to serving these learners provide a critical onramp to acquiring not only critical language skills but also credentials, which can lead to good-paying jobs. However, these pathways are often hampered by curricular misalignment, operational inefficiency, and ineffective classroom practices. A pair of groundbreaking research initiatives from WestEd and Community College Research Center are studying structural barriers for English-language learners with an eye toward broader reforms. [Read more...](#)



### Recent Resources Show the Value of Good Workforce Training Programs

A college education can be transformative, but it's not the only route to career success. We've rounded up three resources highlighting promising approaches to workforce training that are already working to improve the lives of learners from low-income backgrounds. [Read more...](#)

### 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.

- [3rd Annual National Convening: Cross-Agency Collaboration for Evidence-Building](#) (Coleridge Initiative)
- [Advancing Rural Communities Through Apprenticeships and a Stronger Public-Sector Workforce \(Part IV\)](#) (Rural Matters)

### Recent Grants

#### Remove Structural Barriers to Success

##### [Reducing Student Loss from Enrollment to Census: Improving Student Connectedness](#)

[Institute for Evidence-Based Change](#) | \$847,521 | 05/2023 - 04/2025

This grant supports the Institute for Evidence-Based Change in partnering with Alamo Colleges District to address early student attrition. The partners will engage faculty and staff to examine institutional data and student experiences to identify campus-level practices that may help retain students at risk of leaving prior to colleges' official enrollment count.

##### [Sustaining and Scaling Equitable Educational Practices](#)

[Tennessee Board of Regents-The College System of Tennessee](#) | \$1,456,400 | 05/2023 - 04/2026

This grant supports Tennessee Board of Regents, the governing body for the College System of Tennessee, in scaling high-impact practices and applying learning mindset research to create more supportive classrooms throughout the system.

#### Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

##### [Expanding Business Education and Employment Opportunity in Postsecondary Education in Prison Programs](#)

[Resilience Education](#) | \$2,500,000 | 05/2023 - 05/2026

This grant supports Resilience Education in expanding a consortium of leading business and law schools delivering credit-bearing business and financial skills courses in prisons. Resilience will develop new curriculum, build partnerships with additional professional schools and corrections facilities, and create new employer partnerships to increase the number of learners gaining professional skills and finding employment after release.

#### Field Support and Development

##### [Expanding Coverage of Postsecondary Success and Workforce Training in Rural America](#)

[Institute for Nonprofit News](#) | \$75,000 | 06/2023 - 05/2024

This grant supports the Institute for Nonprofit News' Rural News Network in collaborating with five rural newsrooms to develop greater coverage of postsecondary education and workforce training issues in rural communities and highlight the experiences of rural learners.

##### [Student Parent Film Series](#)

[Three Frame Media](#) | \$100,000 | 06/2023 - 06/2024

This grant supports Three Frame Media in producing a short film as part of a series focused on the experiences of student parents in postsecondary education. The series will unpack the challenges faced by student parents, who are also often low-income and students of color, and highlight programs and policies that support their success.

##### [Support for EWA Training on Postsecondary Education Topics](#)

[Education Writers Association](#) | \$150,000 | 05/2023 - 12/2023

This grant supports the Education Writers Association (EWA) in strengthening the quality of national postsecondary education media coverage. The grant supports a mix of programming that focuses on removing structural barriers to postsecondary education success for learners from low-income backgrounds.

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

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

#### [United Negro College Fund: UNCF Unite 2023](#)

Atlanta, GA  
July 17-20, 2023

#### [State Higher Education Executive Officers Association: 2023 SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference](#)


Denver, CO  
Aug. 7-10, 2023

#### [Rural Community College Alliance 2023 National Conference](#)

The Dalles, OR  
Sept. 20-22, 2023

#### [Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness 2023 Conference: Embedding Equity for Better Methods, Evidence, and Practice](#)

Arlington, VA  
Sept. 27-30, 2023

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