



National Rural Postsecondary Research Agenda Now Available

Deeply understanding the experiences of rural learners and the rural institutions that serve them is critical to removing systemic barriers that can stand in the way of their success. Ascendium is excited to share our newly released National Rural Postsecondary Research Agenda, developed in partnership with Sovo, that outlines key questions to inform further research in the rural postsecondary education and workforce training field. [Read more...](#)



At One-Year Mark, Washington Consortium is Maintaining Momentum

It's the one-year mark of Ascendium's Maintain Momentum for Student Success Initiative. This month, we're checking in with the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. With Ascendium's support, the consortium was able to prevent members from departing due to financial constraints and offer programs and working groups to help address challenges posed by the COVID-19 health crisis. [Read more...](#)



New Media Partnerships Spotlight Topics in Postsecondary Education

Grants from Ascendium to two national nonprofit news organizations will support coverage of postsecondary education and workforce training topics over the next two years. Stay tuned for great in-depth reporting that will come from these media partnerships. [Read more...](#)



Remember to Find Ascendium's Education Philanthropy on Social @AscendiumEP

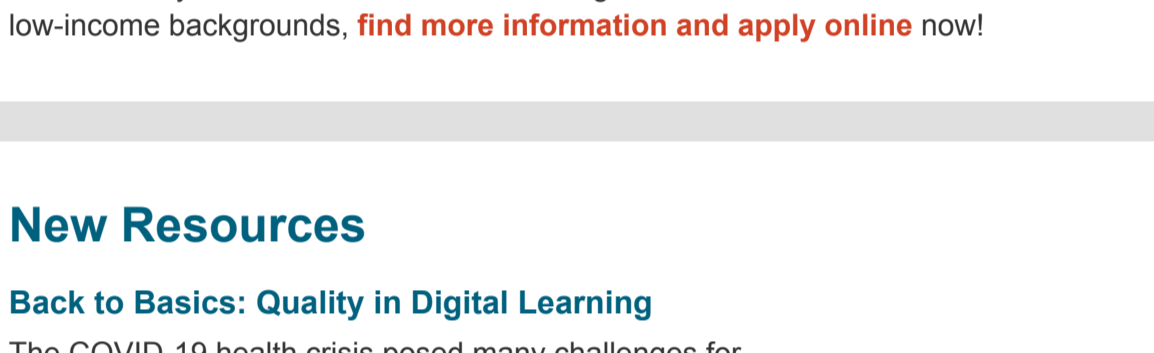
Since our social media launch in June, we've enjoyed engaging with many of you. Here's a quick reminder that you can tag us on social media using @AscendiumEP or our hashtag #AscendiumEP. You can find our education philanthropy on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

We hope you'll follow these new channels to get a stream of content exclusively focused on postsecondary education philanthropy, including initiatives we're backing, the work of our amazing grant partners and other topics of interest to the field.



Now Hiring

Ascendium is hiring to fill several roles on our education philanthropy team. If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference in the lives of learners from low-income backgrounds, [find more information and apply online](#) now!



New Resources

Back to Basics: Quality in Digital Learning

The COVID-19 health crisis posed many challenges for learners, particularly for those from low-income backgrounds. New America, in collaboration with State Higher Education Executive Officer's Association and supported by Ascendium, brings to light **recommendations** for policy changes focused on online learning to make it more equitable and higher quality for learners from low-income backgrounds.



BRIDGES Rural Design Insights, PART 1: Understanding the Potential of Rural Community College Learners

Education Design Lab received funding from Ascendium to complete a three-year design challenge aimed at developing transformative new models that improve education and career outcomes for rural learners and their communities. **This brief** offers insights used to develop new models for rural community colleges to serve as critical economic growth engines. Education Design Lab's efforts are supported by Ascendium in line with our focus area to support rural postsecondary education and workforce training.



Remote Work and Community Networks with John Fitzsimmons, David Daigler, Justin Archer Burch, and Francie Genz (Part III)

The third in an eight-part podcast series Rural Matters features four rural community leaders. Each guest shares insight on topics that range from remote work certification, the importance of bringing job opportunities directly to rural residents, and centering equity in remote work and industry-community collaboration.



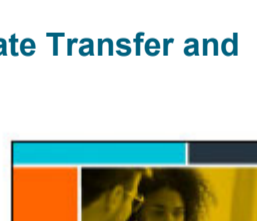
The Transfer Reset: Rethinking Equitable Policy for Today's Learners

The Tackling Transfer Policy Advisory Board has partnered with HCM Strategists, Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program and Sovo to develop policy recommendations. **These recommendations** span three interrelated areas: harnessing data for transformational change, maximizing credit applicability and recognition of learning and advancing strategic finance and impactful student aid. Ascendium supports the Aspen Institute's transfer efforts through our focus area to streamline key transfer situations.



The State of State Transfer Policy: A Typology to Evaluate Transfer and Recognition of Learning Policies

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, HCM Strategist and Sovo are promoting transfer policy reform. **This report** identifies and assesses 16 transfer-specific state or systemwide policy elements that research has shown to affect student outcomes.



On the Go: Find Ascendium Staff in the Field

Ascendium is committed to the safety of our staff. We continue to monitor and follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance regarding the COVID-19 health crisis and safety protocol for travel and in-person events. We will continue to support and attend virtual events but look forward to opportunities in August and beyond to connect in-person.

Grantmakers for Education: The Rural Funders' Workbench: Tools for Grantmaking and Equity Virtual Webinar

August 25, 2021
Kirstin Yeado and Danielle Vetter, presenters

National Center for Inquiry and Improvement Webinar: Rural Community Colleges: Challenges, Context & Commitment to Students

September 8, 2021

Council for Opportunity in Education: 40th Annual Conference

Atlanta, GA
September 12 - 15, 2021

Rural Community College Alliance: Annual Live RCCA Conference 2021

Hickory, NC
September 22 - 24, 2021

SREE: The Fierce Urgency of Knowledge: Education Evidence for Reimagining and Reckoning 2021 Conference

Arlington, VA
September 26 - 29, 2021

NCAN: Rebuilding for Postsecondary Equity Virtual Conference

October 5 - 7, 2021

- October 7, 2021
Kirstin Yeado, presenter, "Using Data Visualization Tools to Understand and Support Rural Learners and Rural Postsecondary Institutions"

National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition: Virtual National Conference on Students in Transition

October 11 - 13, 2021

Grantmakers for Education: A Vision for the Future of Learning & Justice

Los Angeles, CA; Dallas, TX / Virtual
October 12 - 22, 2021

- October 15, 2021
"From Research to Action: Leveraging Literature Reviews to Improve Grantmaking"
- October 20, 2021
Sue Cui, presenter, "Effective Design and Management of Large-Scale Postsecondary Reform"
- October 21, 2021
"What Can the Prison Classroom Teach Colleges and Universities?"

Association for the Study of Higher Education: 46th Annual ASHE Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico / Virtual
November 3 - 6, 2021

Competency-Based Education Network: CBExchange 2021

Austin, TX / Virtual
November 9 - 12, 2021

Rural Education Association: 2021 National Forum to Advance Rural Education

Indianapolis, IN / Virtual
November 11 - 12, 2021

Alliance for Higher Education in Prison: 11th National Conference on Higher Education in Prison

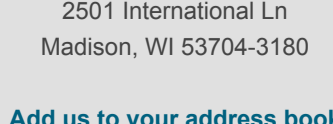
Denver, CO
November 11 - 14, 2021

Council on Adult and Experiential Learning: 2021 Annual Conference

San Diego, CA / Virtual
November 17 - 19, 2021

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