



COVID-19 Transfer Data Reveals Trends that Can Inform Equity and Student Success Policies

The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center has been reporting on student transfer patterns in near real time over the past two years. The data can help colleges and universities develop policies and system level initiatives that address student transfer and pipeline needs to support student success in the post-COVID environment. Doug Shapiro, executive director of the NSC Research Center, spoke with Ascendium to help us learn more about how this data can help inform systemic change to support learners from low-income backgrounds. [Read more...](#)



Engaging with Media Showcases Grant Partners' Positive Impact on Inequity

Ascendium is growing its partnerships with media organizations that share postsecondary education research and programs helping learners from low-income backgrounds achieve their education and career goals. Recently, we have added new partnerships with American Public Media, Chalk Beat, Rural Matters, Open Campus - Institute for Nonprofit News, Academic Intelligence and Restless Productions. These collaborations help get actionable information that fosters system level change into the hands of practitioners, researchers, funders and policymakers. [Read more...](#)

Are You Interested in a Student-Centered Partnership?

The **Transformational Partnerships Fund (TPF)** is accepting grant applications to support partnerships between degree-granting postsecondary institutions. The TPF is a confidential, philanthropic initiative to help postsecondary institutions explore partnerships that could fundamentally improve how they operate and serve learners from low-income backgrounds. Funded in part by Ascendium, with partners ECMC Foundation, SeaChange Capital Partners and The Kresge Foundation, the TPF was established with an understanding of the barriers that many institutions, especially those serving high numbers of students of color or Pell Grant recipients, face in exploring collaboration.

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.

- [College Completion Strategy Guide](#) (MDRC)
- [The Next Phase of Placement Reform: Moving Toward Equity-Centered Practice](#) (CAPR)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Strong Start to Finish - Accelerating Scaled Implementation
Education Commission of the States | \$2,500,000 | 09/2022 - 12/2026

This grant supports Education Commission of the States, through its Strong Start to Finish initiative, in accelerating the implementation of complex developmental education reforms at scale in up to eight state postsecondary education systems.

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Advancing the Economic Mobility of Rural Learners
Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Foundation | \$1,342,200 | 09/2022 - 02/2025

This grant supports the Association of Chambers of Commerce Executives Foundation in working with up to 12 rural chambers of commerce to learn how to bring local community partners together to provide rural learners and workers from low-income backgrounds with the training needed to access well-paying, high-demand jobs.

Launching Civic Sector Apprenticeships in Rural Communities
The Council of State Governments | \$693,800 | 09/2022 - 08/2025

This grant supports the Council of State Governments (CSG) and Urban Institute in working with state and local governments and public sector employers in Maine and Idaho to implement apprenticeship programs targeting learners from low-income backgrounds. New apprenticeships will provide paid training and onramps to good civic sector jobs that are currently experiencing a shortage of qualified workers in rural communities.

Field Support and Development

Chalkbeat Higher Education Coverage in Colorado and Indiana
Chalkbeat Inc | \$50,000 | 07/2022 - 12/2022

This grant supports Chalkbeat in expanding its already highly regarded K-12 reporting to cover challenges facing the postsecondary education system and to elevate possible solutions, starting in Colorado and Indiana.

Rural Matters Podcast
Michael Levin-Epstein | \$20,000 | 09/2022 - 08/2023

This grant supports Michael Levin-Epstein in producing a four-part podcast series focused on postsecondary education and workforce training in rural communities on the Rural Matters podcast.

UnlockED Feature Documentary
Unlocked The Film LLC | \$204,400 | 07/2022 - 06/2023

This grant supports Unlocked The Film LLC in creating a documentary film featuring four incarcerated learners' journey to create an open-source learning management system they named UnlockED.

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.

NSC Clearinghouse COVID-19 Transfer, Mobility, and Progress Report Virtual Webinar

Sept. 13, 2022 (Recording)

Ascendium Rural RFP: Building Evidence to Increase Rural Learner Success Virtual Webinar

Sept. 19, 2022 (Recording)

🚩 **Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness: Annual Conference**
Arlington, VA

Sept. 21-24, 2022

🚩 **National Fund for Workforce Solutions: 2022 National Fund Convening**
Minneapolis, MN

Sept. 27-29, 2022

🚩 **Excelencia in Education Inc: Celebración de Excelencia**
Washington, D.C.

Sept. 29-30, 2022

National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls: 2022 FREEHER Conference

Detroit, MI

Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022

🚩 **Alliance for Higher Education in Prison: Virtual 12th National Conference on Higher Education in Prison**

Oct. 11-14, 2022

🚩 **Grantmakers for Education: Annual Conference**
Austin, TX

Oct. 18-20, 2022

- Keith Witham, presenter, "Seeding Innovation in Response to Emergent Challenges"
- Maryann Rainey and Molly Lasagna, presenters, "How Funders Can Support Equity & Success for Incarcerated Learners"

National Rural Education Association: National Forum to Advance Rural Education

Green Bay, WI/Virtual

Oct. 20-21, 2022

🚩 **Complete College America: 2022 Annual Convening**
Atlanta, GA

Oct. 24-25, 2022

🚩 **Workforce Matters: Further Together**
Washington, D.C.

Nov. 14-16, 2022

Council for Adult and Experiential Learning: Annual Conference

Chicago, IL

Nov. 16-18, 2022

🚩 **Association for the Study of Higher Education: Annual Conference**
Las Vegas, NV

Nov. 16-19, 2022

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management: 2022 Fall Conference on Advancing Policy Research with Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives

Washington, DC

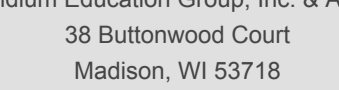
Nov. 17-19, 2022

🚩 **Mission Investors Exchange: 2022 National Conference**
Baltimore, MD

Dec. 5-7, 2022

🚩 = Ascendium is a proud sponsor

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