



Courtesy of Prison University Project

New \$4.7M Ready for Pell Initiative Seeks to Strengthen Postsecondary Education in Prison Programs

Ascendium is announcing Ready for Pell, a two-year, \$4.7 million strategic initiative to strengthen emerging postsecondary education in prison programs ahead of the restoration of Pell Grants in the 2023-24 academic year for learners who are incarcerated. Through Ready for Pell, Ascendium will provide grants of up to \$125,000 to newly established postsecondary education in prison programs, or systems representing multiple institutions, in states that are actively coordinating at a systems level across multiple institutional and agency partners. We've named JFF as our intermediary grant partner in this effort. [Read more...](#)



\$18.5 Million in Newly Approved Grants to Support Student Success, Workforce Mobility, Rural Guided Pathways

Ascendium's Board of Directors recently approved 18 new grants totaling \$18.5 million, including efforts with the Urban Institute, the Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce and six other new grant partners. Among the new grants are initiatives that support campus finance leaders in advancing student success reforms, help postsecondary institutions identify successful workforce-relevant strategies for low-income learners and build the capacity of rural institutions to adopt guided pathways reforms. [Read more...](#)

Additional Ascendium News



Vera Institute of Justice Helps Guide Postsecondary Education in Prison Programs on a Path to Pell for All



SREE Summer Fellows Program a Win-Win-Win for Students, Organizations and the Field

New Resources

As a result of our grantmaking, many informative resources are created by our grant partners. 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.

- [Corequisite Mathematics Toolkit](#)
- [Faculty & Staff Support: A Toolkit for Mid-Level Managers](#)
- [How to Achieve More Equitable Community College Student Outcomes](#)
- [Student Success Training Resources for Campus Employees](#)
- [Tackling Transfer Resources](#)

Recent Grants

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Curricular Analytics

Validation

Colorado State University | \$1,997,600 | 09/2021 - 08/2024

This grant supports the Association for Undergraduate Education at Research Universities, hosted at Colorado State University, in validating the relationship between curricular structure and equitable student outcomes. A national network of senior leaders will collaborate to develop and test strategies for using their institutional data to engage faculty in revising university curriculum.

Building Capacity Across Illinois to Scale Corequisite Supports

Exploration

Partnership for College Completion | \$255,000 | 09/2021 - 08/2022

This grant supports the Partnership for College Completion, in collaboration with the Illinois Community College Board, in building capacity of Illinois colleges to adopt corequisite models of developmental education redesign. This project will create faculty-driven measures of quality that will inform statewide implementation of evidence-based reforms.

Field Support and Development

Raising Rural Grand Challenge Framework

Exploration

National Rural Education Association | \$50,000 | 09/2021 - 08/2022

This grant supports National Rural Education Association in developing their Raising Rural Grand Challenge Framework.

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.

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

October 12 - 22, 2021

- October 21, 2021
Rebecca Villarreal, presenter, "What Can the Prison Classroom Teach Colleges and Universities?"

🚩 Excelencia! in Education: Virtual Celebración de Excelencia

October 28 - 29, 2021

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

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

🚩 New America Webinar: Mapping the Community College Baccalaureate: Policy, Programs and Institutions

November 9, 2021

🚩 Competency-Based Education Network: CBExchange 2021

Austin, TX / Virtual
November 9 - 12, 2021

🚩 National Rural Education Association: 2021 National Forum to Advance Rural Education

Indianapolis, IN / Virtual
November 11 - 12, 2021

- On demand
Kirstin Yeado and Danielle Vetter, presenters, "What Comes Next for Rural Community Colleges After the Pandemic?"

🚩 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

🚩 = Ascendium is a proud sponsor

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