



Local and Online Postsecondary Education Providers Partner to Offer In-Demand Career Credentials in Rural Areas

Rural postsecondary institutions often lack the resources to offer bachelor's degree programs in locally in-demand fields that lead to well-paying jobs. One solution is to supplement local postsecondary courses and training with online offerings that can be completed from any location. Ascendium's recent awards to the Wakiya Foundation and to Reach University support postsecondary education credentials resulting from partnerships between local and online postsecondary providers. These partnerships lead to options for learners from low-income backgrounds to pursue family-sustaining careers where they live. [Read more...](#)



Caring Campus Makes Student Success Everyone's Business, With Promising Results

Despite mounting evidence pointing to the crucial role nonacademic staff play in removing cultural barriers to success, large-scale efforts to improve retention at community colleges and elsewhere typically focus little direct attention on interpersonal interactions between students and staff. That's where Caring Campus comes in. Developed and administered by the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC), the program engages faculty and nonacademic staff in building a culture of belonging, with promising results. [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.

- [Funding Guided Pathways Reforms at Small Colleges: Three Ohio Community Colleges Show How to Do It](#) (Community College Resource Center)
- [Getting the Most Out of Short-Term Career and Technical Education Credentials](#) (Urban Institute)
- [How Tools Support Coaches and Student Success Center Coaching Programs](#) (JFF)
- [Strengthening Educational and Professional Outcomes in Rural Communities \(Part 1\)](#) (Rural Matters)
- [Ten Ways Institutional Coaching Makes a Difference](#) (JFF)
- [Why Community College Bachelor's Degrees? Similarities and Differences Across Urban and Rural Settings](#) (New America)

Recent Grants

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Aligning Employment and Education Systems for the Success of Low-Income Working Adult Learners: The Achieve Your Degree Program

The RAND Corporation | \$647,100 | 10/2022 - 09/2025

This grant supports The RAND Corporation in studying the design and outcomes of Ivy Tech Community College's statewide Achieve Your Degree program. The program helps working learners earn skills needed to advance in their jobs through employer tuition assistance and dedicated academic and non-academic supports.

Exploring Geographic Isolation as a Barrier to Equitable Transfer Outcomes

The RP Group Inc | \$164,900 | 11/2022 - 02/2024

This grant supports the RP Group in assessing the role of proximity to four-year institutions in the transfer outcomes of low-income and Latinx students in California in order to identify ways to strengthen transfer policy and practice, particularly in states with large rural areas not well served by broad access four-year institutions.

Enhancing and Expanding the Transfer Explorer Tool

Ithaka Harbors Inc | \$1,716,350 | 09/2022 - 08/2025

This grant supports Ithaka Harbors in enhancing and expanding the Transfer Explorer Tool so that more transfer students have prior credits applied to a four-year degree, leading to reduced cost, reduced time to degree and a greater chance of completion.

Field Support and Development

Regional Upskilling Alliance - Planning Period

Strada Collaborative Inc | \$50,000 | 11/2022 - 10/2023

This grant supports the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning in coordinating the development of the Regional Upskilling Alliance. The Alliance is an innovative approach to developing sustainable connective structure that more effectively supports low-wage and unemployed adults in obtaining new skills and communicating them to employers in order to access thriving wage career opportunities.

CompetencyXchange Task Force

Competency-Based Education Network | \$50,000 | 10/2022 - 07/2023

This grant supports the Competency Based Education Network in developing a comprehensive agenda to scale implementation of competency-based education across the nation by engaging a coalition of key stakeholders in planning.

Planning for ASAP Denver

Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative | \$50,000 | 12/2022 - 11/2023

This grant supports Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative (CEEMI) in planning implementation of a local ASAP-type program to support low-income learner success in the Denver metro area. CEEMI is entering initial phases of building support among local stakeholders and identifying public funding streams to support launch and sustainability of a Denver ASAP model.

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.

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, D.C.
Nov. 17-19, 2022

Mission Investors Exchange: 2022 National Conference

Baltimore, MD
Dec. 5-7, 2022

Complete College Network's Research, Policy and Practice Convening: Moving the Needle on College Completion

Washington, D.C.
Dec. 13-14, 2022

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Ascendium Education Group, Inc. & Affiliates
38 Buttonwood Court
Madison, WI 53718

[Add us to your address book](#)

SENT BY news@ascendiumeducation.org

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