



Education Philanthropy Program

Ascendium is working to change postsecondary and workforce training systems so that all learners have equitable opportunities for socioeconomic mobility. Our grantmaking focuses on removing systemic barriers faced by learners from low-income backgrounds, especially those in historically underrepresented groups: first-generation students, incarcerated adults, rural community members, students of color and veterans.

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Expand Postsecondary Education in Prison

Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training

Remove Structural Barriers to Success

Ascendium's investment priorities in this focus area are designed to help postsecondary providers remove barriers—whether policy, procedure or practice—that too often prevent learners from low-income backgrounds from completing their education goals.

An investment priority to...

Engage diverse change agents in institutional transformation

Means we support...

- Developing learner-centered, postsecondary leaders in numerous roles, from front line staff to institutional researchers and senior leadership and boards

Which will lead to...

- Leadership development prioritizing learner success and institutional change
- Institutions and systems better understanding financial impacts of learner success reform

An investment priority to...

Support the adoption of institutional and system practices that set learners up for success

Means we support...

- Amplifying knowledge sharing by supporting communities of practice
- Investing in high-quality research to test emerging ideas
- Scaling effective institutional practices that ensure learners complete degrees or credentials without excess credits
- Expanding data infrastructure and information-sharing between institutions and systems

Which will lead to...

- Institutions adopting developmental education reform at scale
- Institutions ensuring more learners can enroll in and complete gateway courses in their first year
- Institutions prioritizing course availability so learners can enroll in courses that they need, when they need them
- Institutions providing strong advising for course selection, progress and intervention

An investment priority to...

Support the implementation of learner-centered policies at the institution, system and state levels

Means we support...

- Aligning policies and practices to maximize the efficacy of learner success reforms

Which will lead to...

- Institutions and systems ensuring that policies do not impede learner progress
- Understanding the policy structures that lead to the greatest return on investment for learners

Visit ascendiumphilanthropy.org to learn more.