



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

Streamline Key Learner Transitions

Ascendium supports efforts that streamline transitions through better data sharing, improve collaboration between institutions and help educational, workforce training and employer systems function in more complementary and effective ways.

An investment priority to...

Explore diverse pathways to technical education and workforce training

Means we support...

- Identifying, validating and scaling high-quality career and technical credentials, training and certificates
- Promoting collaboration between postsecondary education systems and non-degree credential providers

Which will lead to...

- Learners understanding the credentialing landscape and viable pathways to careers
- Learners earning career and technical credentials that enhance their readiness and access to employment, sustainable career pathways and additional postsecondary education
- The traditional academy recognizing high-quality workforce training and technical credentials, resulting in accessible and equitable pathways to careers

An investment priority to...

Ease transitions between, and returning to, postsecondary providers

Means we support...

- Identifying and scaling high-quality prior learning assessment policies and practices that provide equitable on-ramps to postsecondary education
- Improving alignment and application of transfer/reverse transfer policy and practice, and supporting infrastructure collaboration for new transfer pathways at system, state and regional levels
- Diversifying reengagement strategies

Which will lead to...

- "Potential completers" with some college/no degree re-enrolling to complete a degree or high-quality credential which leads to meaningful employment
- Learners accumulating and transferring credits into a program of study that leads to a timely degree or credential without excess credits

An investment priority to...

Smooth transitions between postsecondary education and the workforce

Means we support...

- Promoting postsecondary alignment and collaboration with workforce and economic development
- Expanding data infrastructure and information-sharing between postsecondary and the workforce
- Scaling effective institutional policies and practices that ensure learners are prepared for workforce transition

Which will lead to...

- Postsecondary and workforce systems sharing data to provide learners with relevant education that meets economic and workforce needs and learners' goals
- Institutions demonstrating commitment to career development and readiness

Visit ascendiumphilanthropy.org to learn more.