You are receiving this email because you requested to receive news from Ascendium or are participating in CAEL Virtual Conference. The strong start to finish initiative to scale developmental education reforms is showing promising results, according to early progress reports on the six participating systems. An initiative of the Education Commission of the States, SSTF reports in its recent study on the impact of developmental education that educators in the state systems participating in the Strong Start To Finish initiative increased the number of students who complete gateway college courses in half the time. The systems implemented such reforms as revising placement policies, creating course pathways for students and streamlining or eliminating developmental education classes. Detailed case studies are available for the participating systems: Washington-Graham-Islander, Southwestern Oregon Community College, John A. Logan College, Collin County Community College District, Elgin Community College and The City University of New York (CUNY).

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The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) has released “Supporting Success: New Grants Support a Spectrum of Student Success Initiatives” with $1.9 million in support from Ascendium. This much-anticipated framework sets the stage for Ascendium’s interest in funding this project and identifying strategies to support institutional resiliency and student success for rural, Latinx learners in the midst of natural disasters and crises. Work by the Institute for Higher Education Policy, in partnership with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, to build capacity for state education and workforce agencies in the use of KPIs to measure student success.

The Chronicle of Higher Education Virtual Forum: “What it Takes to be a Student-Ready University” on October 7 presents “The Future of Racial Justice” and “Results Café: GFE LEAD Impact Group’s Summer Fellows Findings.” Ascendium is a proud sponsor of this event.

Grantmakers for Education Learning Series: “Rural Education 101: What Funders Need to Know About Rural U.S. Education” on September 25 is centered on the fact that 20% of the U.S. school population live in rural settings. The session will explore the educational challenges rural students face, including learning loss and achievement gaps. The session will also discuss equity and access in rural schools and explore ways to help close achievement gaps.

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