



March 10, 2023, CEO Updates

ASCENDIUM

Overall, the project was extremely successful.

This project involved four key activities:

- (1) A customer-service redesign at three pilot institutions;
- (2) The development of a new emergency grant program to help low-income students cover unexpected expenses that might interfere with their ability to persist in higher education;
- (3) The development of a grant program called “Tools of the Trade” wherein faculty were able to purchase loaner sets of tools and equipment in courses with high startup costs, to be made available to students with a demonstrated financial need; and
- (4) An open educational resources (OER) initiative aimed at encouraging faculty to convert courses from paid learning materials to low- or no-cost materials.

From the report:

The Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative proved to be our most successful undertaking – so successful, in fact, that the Commission and Council will continue to commit resources to these efforts well beyond the end of the grant term. Faculty who attended one of several OER training workshops were eligible to apply for \$1,000 stipends in exchange for agreeing to convert a course from high-cost learning materials to low- or no-cost materials. To date, 154 faculty members across the state have converted a total of 188 courses, some with multiple section offerings, to low- or no-cost materials.

Above all, this endeavor demonstrated the power, value and importance of cross-sector collaboration. By leveraging resources and expertise from each of our partners, we were able to design and implement a portfolio of initiatives aimed at removing barriers to college access and success for students across the state. The collaboration went beyond financial support, however, with each organization serving as a thought partner and contributing ideas for creative solutions that will continue to impact students for years into the future. Our success in this area also contributed to our conversations about including additional partners in our efforts to increase the state’s postsecondary educational attainment rate to 60 percent by the year 2030. In fact, we worked with legislative leaders in 2022 to codify the formation of a statewide college attainment task force to help us focus even more on this important issue. Similarly, elements of our open educational resources initiative were written into state law. For example, institutions are now required to publish information on the cost of learning materials for every course, including whether no-cost materials are available at no cost to students.

What hasn't been spent:

Ascendium	GKVF	Benedum Fdn	EQT	PAF
750,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000
\$ 165,151	\$ 4,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,000

Things to note:

Discussions are in motion with each funder about next steps. To date, I've spoken with GKVF, EQT, and Ascendium, and they do not want their funding back, so I am discussing with them all what it would look like to extend the grant and/or repurpose some of it to go towards Philanthropy WV. I have scheduled a call with Chris Treadway, our state partner, and Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education, next week to discuss if he would like to continue to work with us on this project, why all of the funds were not spent and what could have been done to prevent this from happening.

If the organization would like to continue to pursue opportunities like this then it's important to create mechanisms within Philanthropy WV so something like this doesn't occur again, and that the time Philanthropy WV's staff put into it is fairly compensated. It should be noted, during the entire period of the project, Philanthropy WV only received \$60,000 (30,000/year) from the Ascendium funding. It was not, by any means, a substantial amount of revenue for the organization.

CONFERENCE

The planning right now is on hold while we wait to hire a new Director of Membership Engagement. Abigail was able to put together a preliminary schedule prior to leaving but nothing was confirmed.

Oglebay Resort has been reserved as well as an offsite space, the Oglebay Institute.

Beginning next week, here are our next steps:

- begin working again seminars and on inviting plenary speakers
- reimagine the Spirit of Philanthropy, and book speakers, entertainment and food for event at Ogleby Institute
- work on making asks for sponsorships (packet has been created and will go up on website next week)

Misc. Updates

- 1) Philanthropy WV is participating in United Forum’s Racial Equity Learning and Action Cohort, a six month program that will focus on:
 - 1. Advancing Individual change agency
 - 2. Advancing participants' internal and external Institutional Racial Equity work
 - 3. Contributing to the advancement of a Field Transformation Agenda shaped by the principles & practices of the Forum's Racial Equity Committee and other advanced participants and members

Goals for Philanthropy WV: to return to the DEIB strategies within the strategic plan, develop two programs for members; and launch (during the conference a DEIB committee)

- 2) Federal Funders Roundtable: **Doug Lynott**, Director, Division of Economic Development Integration, U.S. Department of Commerce is helping me figure out how to connect with the original group and re-launch this series.
- 3) Marlo Long and Philanthropy WV’s participation WV CD Advisory Group is continuing. Opportunities for financial support are available to sponsor us.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS

****New website will go up by the end of March and you’ll be able to see everything that’s been confirmed for this year. Also, there will be a feature to filter the seminars by audience.**

March			
EAG Meeting	Mar. 7	10 - 11 AM	Zoom
Demystifying trust based practices	Mar. 9		Partnership with National Family Foundation Network
Board Meeting	Mar. 10	10:30 - 12	Step toe & Johnson, Clarksburg Office
Investment & Endowment Seminar: An Economic Outlook for 2023	Mar. 16	11AM - 1PM	Truist office or TGKVF

April			
Framing Aging in Grantmaking and Philanthropy in partnership with AARP and Grantmakers in Aging	Apr. 6	2 - 3 PM	Zoom
Scholarship Managers Roundtable	Apr. 11	10 - 11 AM	Zoom
COF Event: Legal Matters for Corporate Foundations & Giving Programs	Apr. 19-20	1-4 PM each day	Zoom
Huntington Regional Roundtable	Apr. 24	12 lunch; 1 - 2 PM meeting	Foundation for the Tri-State
North Central Regional Roundtable	Apr. 26	12 lunch; 1-2 PM meeting	WVU Art Museum
Northern Panhandle Regional Roundtable	April 27	12 lunch; 1-2 PM meeting	CFOV Offices
Potomac Highlands & Eastern WV Regional Roundtable	Apr. 28	12 lunch; 1-2 PM meeting	Tucker Community Foundation