

# Session #PLS3C

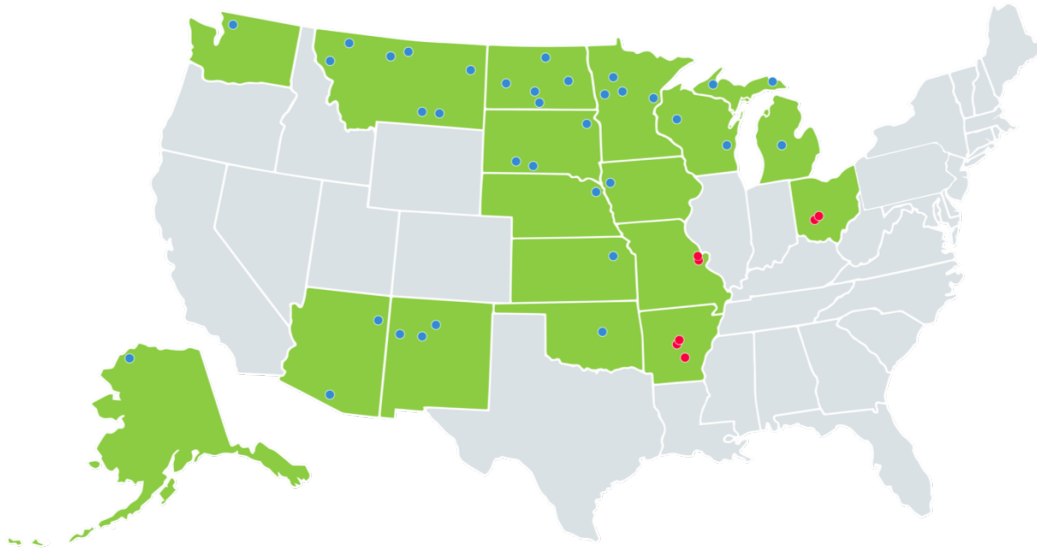
Ascendium

Beth Erickson, Vice President Repayment Solutions  
U.S. Department of Education  
FSA 2019 Presidential Leadership Summit

# Ascendium Education Group

- Ascendium, formerly Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates, is a nonprofit that helps help learners reach the postsecondary education and career goals that matter to them.
- Our work breaks down barriers to success that prevent people from achieving their dreams – **especially those from historically underrepresented populations.**

# Ascendium Project Success Institutions



● 35 Tribal Colleges & Universities (TCUs)

● 7 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

# Ascendium Project Success Strategy

## Evidence-based programs & services that:

- Build trust
- Foster institutional change
- Leverage the power of data
- Develop & implement action plans
- Improve community collaboration



## To Increase:

- Persistence
- Completion
- Successful repayment of student loans
- Increased institutional capacity to achieve these goals

# Ascendium: Emergency Aid Program

Emergency Aid helps students cover unforeseen emergency expenses that, left unaddressed, could cause them to drop out of school.

In 2018:

**40**

Participating TCUs and HBCUs

**1,739**

Emergency grants awarded on behalf of students

**\$725,324**

Emergency grant dollars awarded by colleges on behalf of students

**83%**

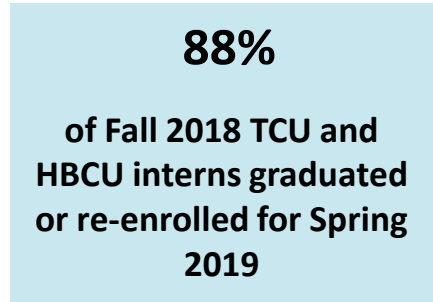
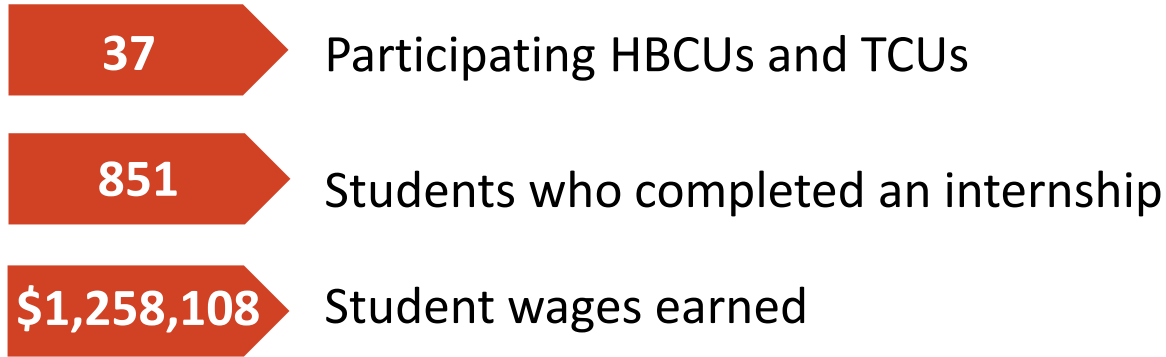
of Fall 2018 TCU  
emergency  
grant recipients  
graduated  
or re-enrolled for Spring  
2019

Source: TCU data reported in Scholarship America portal through December 31, 2018

# Ascendium Paid Internship Program

Paid internships level the playing field by paying students for internships that provide them with meaningful work experiences on campus or in the community.

In 2018:



Source: Self-reported data from TCUs and HBCUs, January 2019 Project Success report

# Ascendium: GradReady and Cohort Catalyst

In 2018:

## GradReady

Financial literacy tool that help students learn about money management.

1,296

New student online accounts

## Cohort Catalyst

Default prevention and rehabilitation solution that empowers students through outreach, education and counseling.

4,528

Total students cured

# Ascendium Project Success Strategy

## Carnegie Math Pathways

Supports math faculty in implementing Statway® or Quantway® as a replacement for traditional math education sequence.

19

TCUs have implemented Statway® or Quantway®

822

Students have taken or are currently taking Statway® or Quantway®

30%

Success rates with Pathways are roughly 30% higher than original courses

## Achieving the Dream

Provides customized, ongoing support from a Data Coach and Leadership Coach to support data analysis, student success program design, and the implementation of best practices.

33

TCUs participating in the ATD network and all are working to address student success priorities as outlined in their 2018 Student Success Action Plans

Source: TCU self-reported data, January 2019 Project Success report



# Success Stories

## Carnegie Math Pathways

- College of Menominee Nation replaced its college algebra course with a custom version of Quantway and, in 2018, saw its success rate increase from roughly 65% to 85%.
- *“Before this class, I didn’t really think of myself as a math person, or a person who was capable of learning how to do math...I started in the course and it changed the way I thought about math people and being able to do certain things in math.”* – Quantway® student at College of Menominee Nation.

## Paid Internship

- *“My professional skills and knowledge have increased and the internship helped me figure out what my long-term goal really was. My attitude has changed and is now more mature, open, and understanding.”* – Internship student at Salish Kootenai College
- *“There is an opportunity cost that exists with taking an unpaid internship. This grant took away that cost and I was able to receive great experience while also financially supporting myself in college.”* – Student at Lincoln University in Missouri

# Questions and Answers