

NEWS RELEASE

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Ascendium Expands Suite to Broaden Student Loan Repayment Support

Introduces Student Loan Repayment Assistance and Counseling

Madison, Wis.— Student loans weigh heavily on the minds of many Americans. For more than 50 years, Ascendium Education Solutions® has supported student loan borrowers as they repay their loans. In collaboration with thousands of colleges and universities, Ascendium has introduced tools and services to alleviate borrower stress. Today Ascendium announces the expansion of its services to a broader group of organizations, including employers, financial institutions, government agencies and professional associations.

"We're using our extensive student loan knowledge and expertise to make it easy for organizations to provide the support their workforce or customers need to alleviate the stress of student loan debt," states Jeff Crosby, President and CEO of Ascendium Education Solutions.

With an increasing number of student loan borrowers struggling to meet their financial obligations organizations are introducing programs to assist those who are struggling with student loan debt. Introduced as benefits to attract and retain top talent, or value-add services to support customers, these programs build affinity.

Ascendum's new services are provided through its Attigo® Suite and are in-line with their mission to help people reach their full potential.

New services include:

Student Loan Repayment Assistance allows employers to contribute directly to an employee's student loan to relieve financial stress and shorten the time it takes to pay off their loans.

Congress recently extended the tax-free status of employer-made student loan payments (up to \$5,250 annually) through December 2025. (Source: <u>Consolidated Appropriations Act</u>.)

Student Loan Counseling connects employees or customers to knowledgeable and trustworthy student loan counselors who can help these borrowers take advantage of available repayment options and other student loan-related programs while avoiding student loan fraudsters.

79% of borrowers said they would utilize a trustworthy and established student loan counseling service
if one was offered by their school, bank or employer. (Source: Successfully Navigating Student Loan
Repayment white paper.)

Online Financial Education delivers the right information at the right time — from college financing to navigating student loan repayment to developing the financial skills to achieve lifelong financial goals.

Learn more about Ascendium and its Attigo Suite of solutions by visiting attigo.com.

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Attigo® is provided by Ascendium Education Solutions® an affiliate of Ascendium Education Group®. For more than 50 years, Ascendium has made postsecondary education a reality for millions of people. We're a nonprofit and the nation's largest student loan guarantor, the provider of Attigo student loan repayment and financial wellness solutions and a philanthropy whose mission is to elevate opportunities and outcomes for learners from low-income backgrounds. We believe in the boundless power of education and support big dreams.