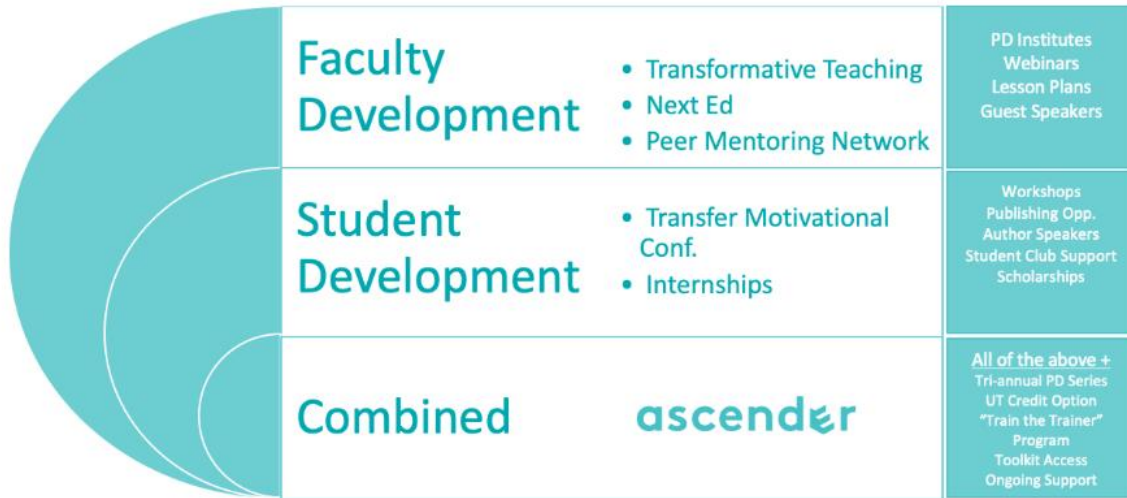




CATCH THE NEXT



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Ascender

Ascender is a holistic approach to student, faculty and institutional advancement. It is a program created to engage faculty and staff in culturally-responsive professional development while they work with cohorts of underserved students, at their home campuses, to ensure their academic success. Students are intentionally recruited into the program by designated advisors who then support students until transfer or graduation. The framework includes:

- Navigational support through holistic advising, counseling, and a Learning Framework course.
- An academic pathway that features a year-long sequence of English, and additional core subjects by instructors trained in the model.
- A Student Engagement component that includes community mentorship, cultural events, leadership development and internships.

Transformative Teaching Track

TTT is a two-day, experiential and intensive training retreat in classroom strategies designed to support statewide policies and national trends in higher education. It brings together faculty from across multiple institutions to share best practices and design curriculum to meet their current needs.

Our focus in Texas today is to equip faculty to play leadership roles in response to House Bill 2223 which mandated CoRequisite models to accelerate students through developmental coursework. As such, we offer sessions in co-curricular design, team-building, and literacy strategies with an emphasis on culturally responsive practice.

NextEd Customized College Coaching

NextEd is a program of half and full-day workshops for faculty and staff in higher education facilitated by Catch the Next's network of innovators—teachers, scholars, authors and administrators—committed to transforming higher education for the better.

We offer customized professional development delivered on participating campuses with the understanding that each college has its own unique challenges and institutional needs.

Each college can select session content from 25 potential sessions grouped by theme: Team Building and Icebreakers, Equity and Culturally Responsive Approaches, Interdisciplinary Best Teaching Practices, and Literacy and Critical Thinking Strategies.

Professional Mentoring Network

(Teaching and Learning for Student Success Peer Mentoring Program)

Our Professional Mentoring Network creates a community of learning, coaching, and mentoring focused on nurturing the whole professional to improve individual and institutional performance.

This work is possible through the participation of a sustained network of scholars, authors, and community leaders who can support the instructional and professional development of our faculty in the classroom and of our staff sustaining Catch the Next's programs across the state.

Our mentors lead training sessions, visit our classrooms, participate and guide student internships and coach our faculty and staff in the realization of their personal and professional goals.

Leadership Fellows Program

The CTN Leadership Fellows Program provides a development track for practitioners across campuses, to help them to understand the underpinnings associated with the values of leadership to directly impact the future of higher education. The objective is to develop leaders who share the values of respect, community, professional development, and responsible stewardship, while seeking to promote others to lead and achieve success – in other words, a mindful leader who embraces collaboration and inclusiveness. Leadership Fellows are encouraged to embrace a leadership code that seeks to develop an open and collaborative environment, which fosters empowerment, professional development, and inclusion. The most effective way to cultivate that potential is through building a transformative culture of learning

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Transfer Motivational Conference

The Transfer Motivational Conference is designed to introduce community college students to university life and to motivate them to transfer to a four-year university.

Participating in the summer conference offers a unique opportunity for Ascender students to have an on-campus dormitory experience at Texas's flagship university while networking with fellow student from across the state. Sessions on professional and personal development are facilitated by CTN staff as well as guest speakers and address the transfer process, career options, financial aid, and life on campus.

John Sicheloff Journalism Internship

Named for CTN's founder, a renowned and award-winning journalist, this internship provides opportunities for students to gain professional experience while increasing their marketable skills. Every year, an intern is selected from each of Ascender's 11 campuses to be mentored by journalists in year-long series of professional development sessions that hone their writing and research skills. The 2019-2020 cohort was mentored by Pulitzer-Prize winner Julia Preston, former national correspondent for the *New York Times*.

As members of the CTN communication team, interns play a vital role in disseminating information about CTN events and achievements on their campuses. In addition, to encourage interns to add their creativity to the communication team, they are asked to submit their ideas for feature articles.

AWARDS

- The John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education awarded Catch the Next the Edge Commendation for Innovation in Education. October 22, 2021.
- Catch the Next's Ascender Program was recognized as an Example of Excellence Finalist, October 28, 2021. The program has been listed on Excelencia's Programs that Work Database since 2017.
- The Texas Higher Education has recognized CTN in the Journal of Developmental Education in 2014 and through a video in 2016.
- Catch the Next is the winner of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's challenge: What is Next in Higher Education for advising, mentoring and breaking down institutional silos. 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Catch the Next has offices in San Antonio, Austin Texas and West Haven, CT.