

# Credential Transparency: Clearly Articulating Value To All Stakeholders

Deb Everhart, VP Design And Innovation, Learning Objects @ariadne4444
Jeanne Kitchens, Associate Director, Center For Workforce Development,
Southern Illinois University @Jeannekitchens1
Mark Leuba, Vice President, Product Management,
IMS Global Learning Consortium @LearningImpact\_



#### **OVERVIEW**

- The Current Credentialing Marketplace
- Credential Engine
- IMS Global Learning Consortium
- Call to Action
- Discussion









#### WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "CREDENTIALS"?

A documented award by a responsible and authorized body that has determined that an individual has achieved specific learning outcomes or attained a defined level of knowledge or skill relative to a given standard.

#### Umbrella term that includes:

- Educational degrees and certificates
- Professional and industry certifications
- Apprenticeship certificates
- Licenses
- Micro-credentials
- Badges
- Innovative emerging credentials



#### **CURRENT CREDENTIALING PROBLEMS**

Fragmented, multi-faceted, complex credentialing system that doesn't work well for credential seekers, employers, or educators

#### Highly diverse and decentralized

Many actors:

- academic and training organizations
- industry groups
- occupational groups
- licensing boards
- accreditors, new types of quality assurance entities



#### Many types of credentials

- different purposes
- different quality assurance mechanisms
- different regulations
- different metrics for awarding credentials
- different value in different contexts

Public and employer policies struggle to keep pace with new developments



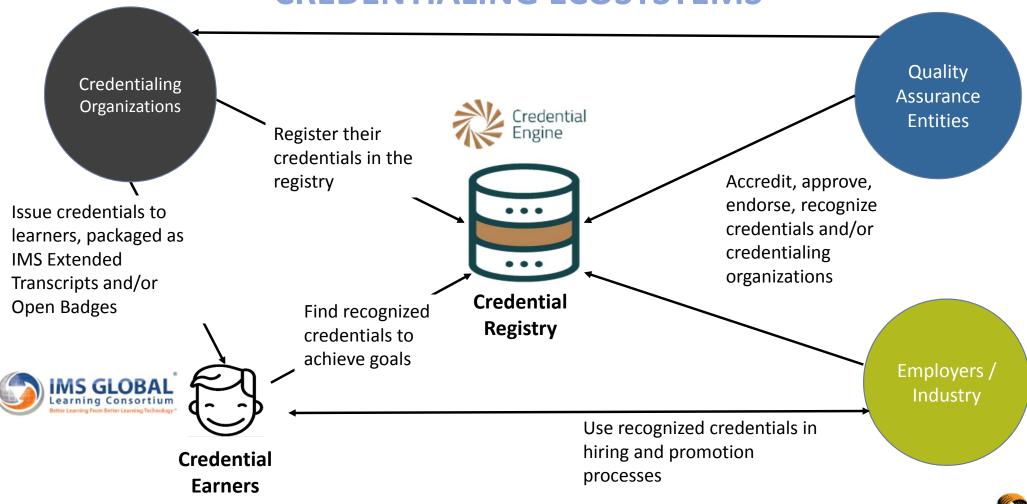
#### CHARACTERISTICS OF AN IMPROVED CREDENTIALING ECOSYSTEM

- ✓ Learning-based and learner-centered
- ✓ All learning matters wherever it's obtained
- ✓ All credentials are based on learning outcomes/competencies
- Credentials are portable, transferrable, transparent, useful, and easily understood by learners, employees, employers
- ✓ Credentialing pathways, including onramps, increase access and equity for all learners

- ✓ Helps learners, employees, and employers make informed choices about their investment in and value of the credentials they're pursuing
- ✓ Helps employers better qualify employees and reduce recruiting time, employee turn-over, and cost of retraining
- ✓ Builds a competitive, highly skilled workforce
- ✓ Dynamic system agility to be relevant in rapidly changing labor markets



#### **CREDENTIALING ECOSYSTEMS**







### **CREDENTIAL ENGINE**

Promoting transparency and credential literacy in the marketplace to reveal the world of credentials and inform the public.

Jeanne Kitchens Associate Director, SIUC CWD jeannekitchens@siu.edu



#### **CREDENTIAL ENGINE ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP**

**Executive Director** 

Administrative & Communications
Staff

#### **Technical Teams:**

- Data Models
- Registry
   Infrastructure
- Competency Frameworks Interface
- Search App

**Executive Board** 

**Educational Foundations** 

#### **Advisory Groups:**

- Business
- Certification and Licensure
- Higher Education
- Quality Assurance
- Technical Advisory Group

# Registry Participant Examples:

- Education and Training
- Certification Bodies
- States / Government
- Military
- Quality Assurance Bodies
- Competency Framework Developers



# TRANSPARENCY THROUGH CREDENTIAL ENGINE TECHNOLOGY

Credential Transparency
Description Language (CTDL) and
CTDL ASN-DL provides a common
language to describe key features of
credentials, credentialing
organizations, competency
frameworks, and quality assurance
(QA) bodies based on the principles
of Linked Data.



Credential and Competency
Framework Registry continuously
capture, connect, archive, and share
metatdata about credentials,
credentialing organizations, QA
bodies, and competency
frameworks, supporting an open
applications marketplace.



Credential Finder search app designed to demonstrate the power of the registry and foster a competitive apps marketplace.

CREDENTIAL FINDER BETA



#### **TESTING PHASE AND LAUNCH DECEMBER 7, 2017**

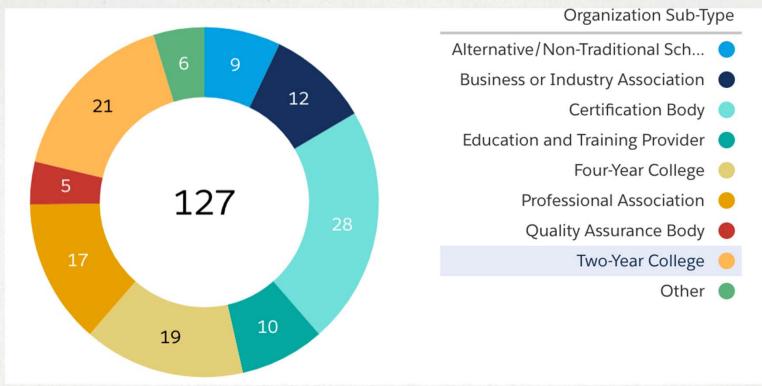
Currently, all work with Credential Registry participants is in a testing phase:

- Information is password protected as testing occurs and participant's credential information is in varying stages of being complete.
- The charts that follow show the representation of registry participant partners during the testing phase.

Beginning December 7, 2017 the production environment will be launched and all of the current participants and any credentialing organization or quality assurance organization can setup an account to request access to publish information to the Credential Registry.



### REGISTRY PARTICIPANTS BY TYPE WITH TESTING PHASE

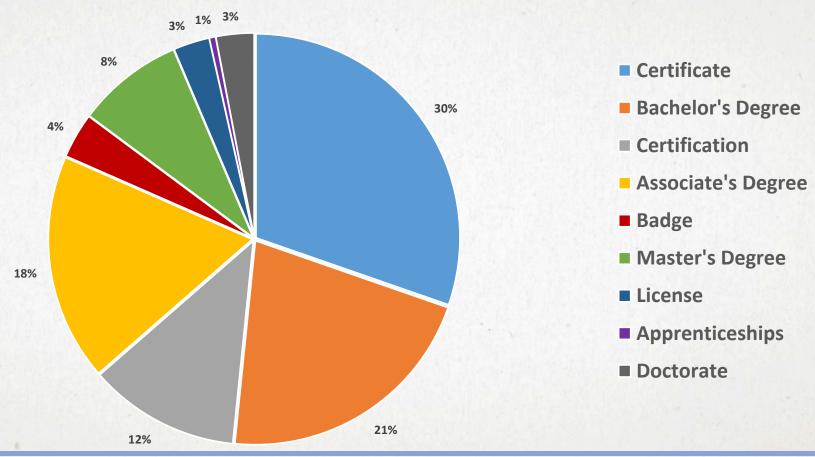


The above number does not include the credentialing organizations participating through our Indiana State project: approximately 33 additional organizations are involved in that project, including 22 institutions of higher education, 3 certification bodies, 5 licensing boards, and 3 QA bodies, and including two military training bodies.



#### CREDENTIALS IN THE REGISTRY

**Credentials as of October 23, 2017 (Total = 1398)** 





# CREDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY DESCRIPTION LANGUAGE (CTDL) EXAMPLES

### **Declaring Name, Purpose, Type of Credential** and Credentialing Organization

- Credentialing organization identification
- Credential organization type
- Credential identification
- Credential type
- Purpose of credential
- Where credentialing is offered
- Jurisdiction



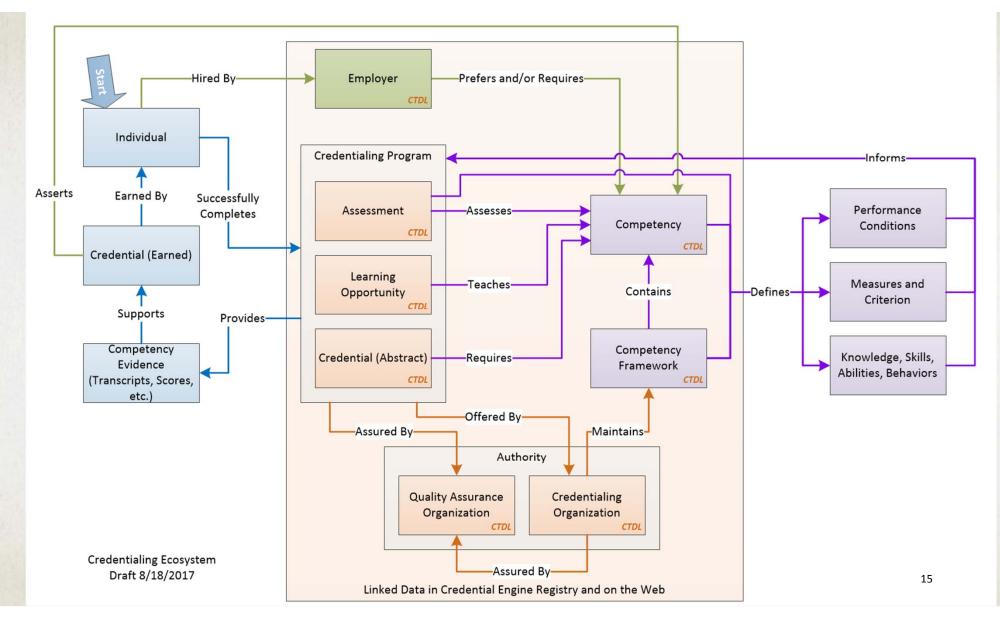
#### **Declaring What Is Inside the Credential**

- Credentialing eligibility requirements
- Competencies/learning outcomes required to attain credential
- Assessments required to attain credential
- Education and training for the credential
- Time required to attain credential
- Credentialing costs
- Maintaining credential
- Credential removal
- Credential holder verification services
- Version management
- Employer engagement

### **Declaring Other Key Characteristics and Connections**

- Primary scope of application: subject/discipline area
- Primary scope of application: career preparation and advancement
- Role of occupational regulation and licensing
- Geographic portability of credential use
- Connections to other credentials
- Career Pathway Connections\*
- External quality assurances
- Employer recognition
- Number and characteristics of credential holders\*
- Employment and earnings of credential holders\*

\*Italicized descriptors are not yet in use

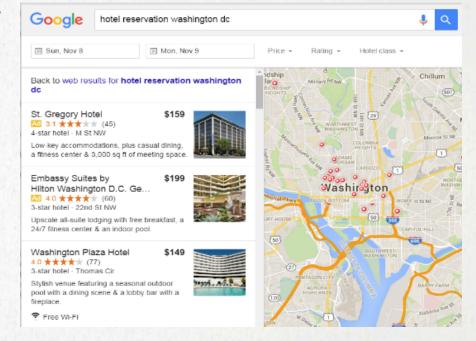




# MOVING TO A WEB OF LINKED DATA: IMPROVING WEB FORMATS

World Wide Web is moving from a web of "linked" documents to "linked data."

- Google, job and travel aggregators use common terminology (metadata) that has been accepted as web standard (e.g., Schema.org)
- Using consistent metadata for key features of credentials, the registry enables job seekers, students, workers, and employers to search for and compare credentials, just as travel apps are used to compare flights, rental cars, and hotels.





#### CTDL2SCHEMA.ORG VISION

 Aim: the adoption by schema.org of (a few) additional terms from the CTDL that are necessary for search and discovery of credentials on the open Web.



- Why: schema.org is the largest repository of Linked Data terms in the world and is used by the major search engines such as Google.
- Ongoing discussions managed as github issues <a href="https://github.com/CredentialEngine/CTDL2schema.org/issues">https://github.com/CredentialEngine/CTDL2schema.org/issues</a>
- Start at selecting relevant use case outlines from the CTDL use cases <a href="https://goo.gl/gqwYKB">https://goo.gl/gqwYKB</a>



Goal: Linked Data in the Registry and on the Web.







#### **CREDENTIAL REGISTRY**

The Credential Registry is for metadata about credentials and quality assurance:



- Requires an account to gain access.
- Uses a profile of the CTDL for validation for minimum requirements and data format.
- Provides a set of services for data quality and for getting data in and out.



#### CREDENTIAL REGISTRY BOARD-APPROVED POLICIES

The Credential Engine Board approved to Credential Engine Registry Policies. The approvals were based on input from partners, and all 5 advisory groups <a href="http://www.credentialengine.org/advisoryGroups">http://www.credentialengine.org/advisoryGroups</a>.



- Minimum Data Policy <a href="http://credreg.net/registry/policy#mindata">http://credreg.net/registry/policy#mindata</a>
- Currency Policy <a href="http://credreg.net/registry/policy#currency">http://credreg.net/registry/policy#currency</a>



# OPTIONS TO PUBLISH CREDENTIAL INFORMATION TO THE REGISTRY

#### CTDL Editor

- Manual Entry: only recommended for small numbers of stable credential information, meaning the information doesn't change frequently.
- Bulk Upload: Use CSV (e.g., spreadsheet) to upload when it's not possible to utilize API.
- Credential Registry Assistant API: Recommended option for structured data (e.g., data is, or can be, accessed via databases).
- Harvesting CTDL Structured Data: As a service, planning to get data that is formatted and available on the open web as CTDL structured metadata.





#### **GET DATA FROM THE REGISTRY**

Systems and web applications can use the Registry search API to pull credential data from the registry:



- create new tools for a variety of audiences
- provide more information about credentials to existing systems and applications.



#### **VENDOR STRATEGY**

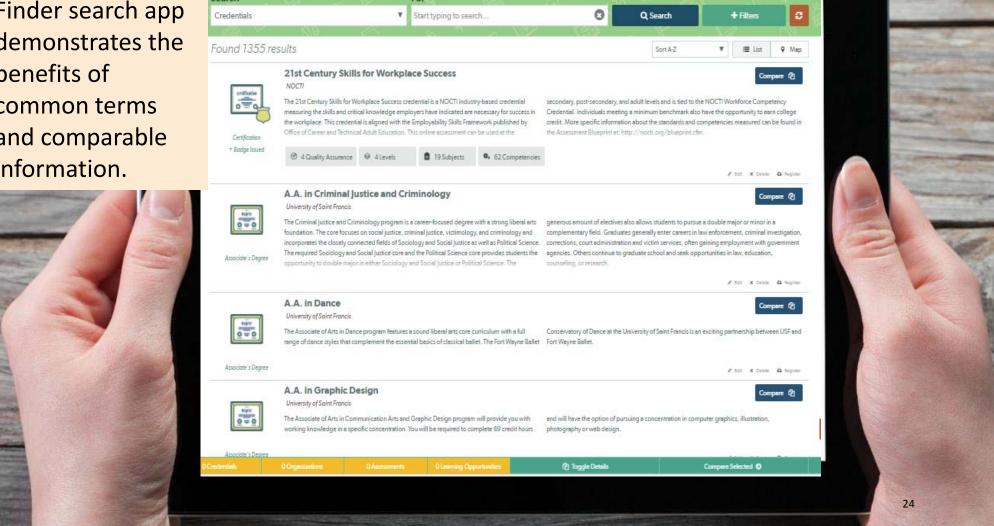
The Credential Engine (CE) team has identified several vendors and has started conversations with them about using the CE technologies and offering services for publishing and/or consuming data from the Credential Registry.

Identify predominant vendors serving credentialing organizations:

- Initially, two segments
  - Web content management systems for all credentialing organizations
  - Related and more specialized higher education systems holding CTDLrelated data



The Credential Finder search app demonstrates the benefits of common terms and comparable information.



#### **CREDENTIAL ENGINE**

Contact the Credential Engine team to learn more and include your credentials in the Credential Registry

http://credentialengine.org/contact

- Credential Engine <a href="http://credentialengine.org">http://credentialengine.org</a>
- Use the Credential Engine schemas and technologies <a href="http://credreg.net">http://credreg.net</a>
- Subscribe to receive updates <a href="https://credentialengine.org/articles">https://credentialengine.org/articles</a>
- Join the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) <a href="https://credentialengine.org/contact">https://credentialengine.org/contact</a>





# IMS GLOBAL

# Skills, Competencies and Digital Credentials

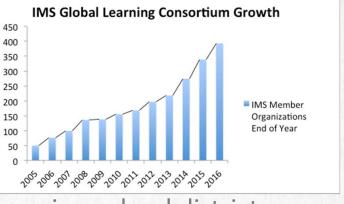
The Foundation for Learner-Centered Programs

Mark Leuba Vice President, Product Management mleuba@imsglobal.org @LearningImpact



# IMS Global Learning Consortium

- International non-profit Education Technology collaborative
- 430+ members (and growing)
  representing higher education
  institutions, state educational agencies, school districts, and Ed-Tech suppliers
- Mission to advance technology for teaching and learning that can affordably scale, improve educational participation and attainment



# IMS Global Learning Consortium

AACRAO	Learning Counsel
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Mozilla Foundation
Collective Shift	Online Learning Consortium,
Connecting Credentials	PARCC
CoSN	Quality Matters
Credential Transparency Initiative	Right Signals
Ed-Fi	SBAC
EDUCAUSE	SETDA
Internet2	Unizin
ISO/IEC	WCET
ISTE	WIDA

### **Partnering with Leading Advocacy Organizations**



## IMS Global Learning Consortium

- Over 115 leading HED institutions (and growing), including 13 of the top 100 ranked institutions worldwide
- 100+ school districts and states: 12 of the largest 25, 30 of the largest 100 districts in the US, and 45 states are leading efforts in the IMS Global Learning Consortium
- 181 HED suppliers worldwide



IMS Core Initiative Areas





#### HIGHER EDUCATION REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

# IMS standards encompass the education interoperability landscape

#### **Key to IMS Interoperability Standards Shown**

CAL - Caliper Learning Analytics

CASE - Competency and Academic Standards Exchange

CC - Common Cartridge content package

eT - Extended Transcript

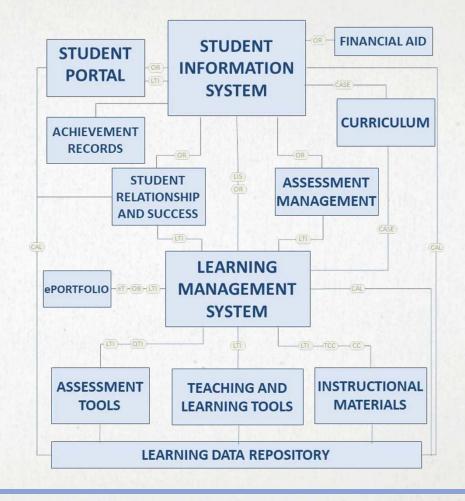
LIS - Learning Information Services

LTI - Learning Tools Interoperability

OB - Open Badges

OR - OneRoster

QTI - Question-Test Interoperability





### **IMS Standards**



**COMMONCARTRIDGE®** 



**CALIPERANALYTICS®** 

**QUESTION and TEST INTEROPERABILITY®** 

OPEN BADGES EXTENDED TRANSCRIPT

**COMPETENCIES and ACADEMIC STANDARDS EXCHANGE** 



Search Parameters - Total Products: 408

Search by Supplier

Enter product name

Search by Registration Number

# **IMS Tests and Certifies Products** for Interoperability













LTI Content Item

LAST »

# Skills, Competencies and Digital Credentials



# Challenges Managing Competencies

- Existing course-based technology platforms were not designed to capture and manage skills and competencies<sup>(1)</sup>
- Organizations resort to managing competencies with spreadsheets – not a scalable solution
- IMS has published CASE™ a open data standard for managing competency and skills-based learning models

(1) C-BEN TIP Project in Educause Review: <u>Competency-Based Education: Technology Challenges and Opportunities</u>.



### An Open Competency Standard

Using IMS' Competency and Academic Standards Exchange (CASE)

Aligned
With Professional
Frameworks
and Standards

COMPETENCY LEARNING MODEL

Recognized through Competency-Based Digital Credentials Supported by Instructional Materials, Assessments and Rubrics

Note: growing competency focused learning models are supportive but independent of formal "Competency Based Education"



# Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange™ (CASE™)







The CASE standard has three component types



#### Interoperable Competency Data

- CASE defines how competency statements are formatted and exchanged digitally
- Supports alignment with courses, external frameworks
- Issuing organizations have complete control over curriculum terminology and hierarchy

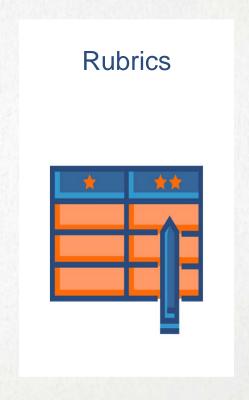


Quick Reference: Georgia Department of Education: https://case.georgiastandards.org/cftree/doc/365



### Interoperable Mastery Rubrics

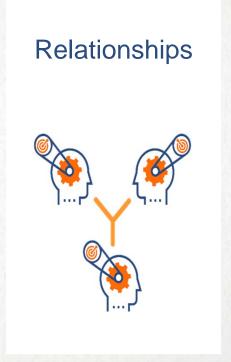
- CASE connects standards and competencies to performance criteria
- Provides the way to transmit rubrics between different products and platforms





### Alignment and Equivalency

- CASE describes relationships between competencies, e.g. "Precedes", "Is Related To" "Is Part of", "Same as", ...
- CASE links your curriculum elements to standards and other professional frameworks





## CASE Supports Multiple Use Scenarios

CASE Standard Element	Example HED Implementation	K12 Implementation	Employer Implementation
Document	Credentialed Program	Academic Standards	Job Requirements
Item	Course or Competency		
Relationship	Is child, is parent,		
Rubrics, Criteria, Criterion Levels			

Consumer System IMS provides free Open Source REST Web Services

Get
Package,
Document,
Standard,
Rubric, ...

Program (Credential)
Courses and/or
Competencies

Rubrics (optional)
Rubric Criteria
Level

**Host System** 



## Credentialed Program - BSN



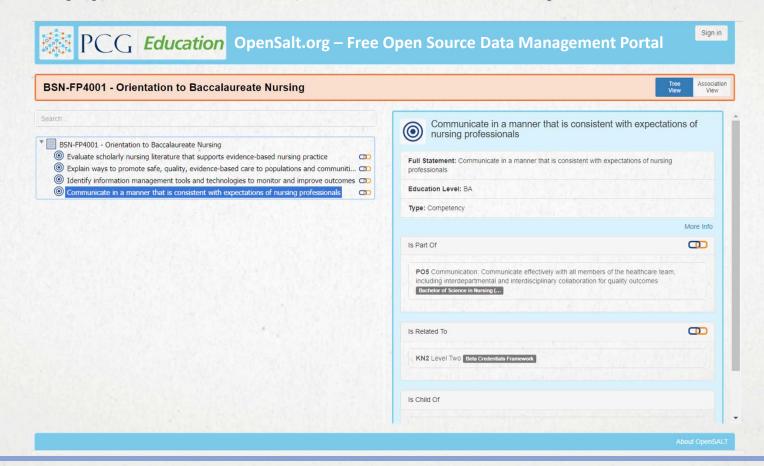


Used with permission, Capella University 2017©

oout OpenSALT



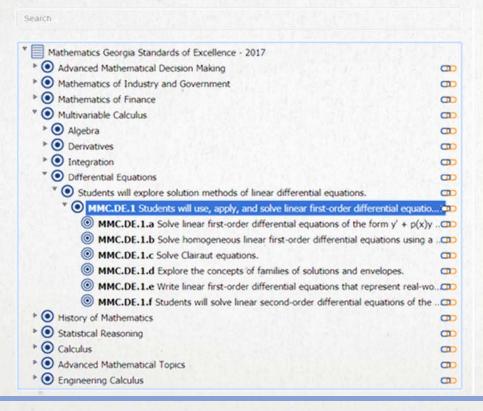
### Supports Courses and Competencies

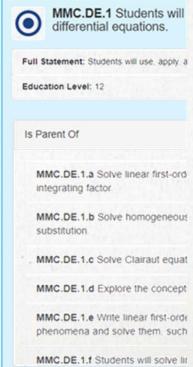




#### K12 CASE-compliant Curriculum

#### Mathematics Georgia Standards of Excellence - 2017





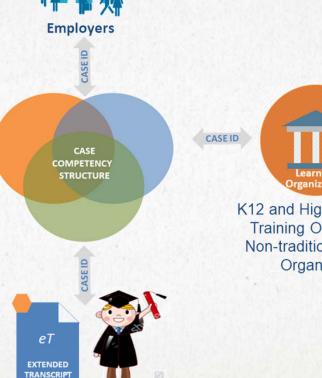


## CASE Enables Alignment

A standards-based competency structure using globally unique identifiers (CASE ID) provides a means to share and to link competencies in new and powerful ways



Endorsers

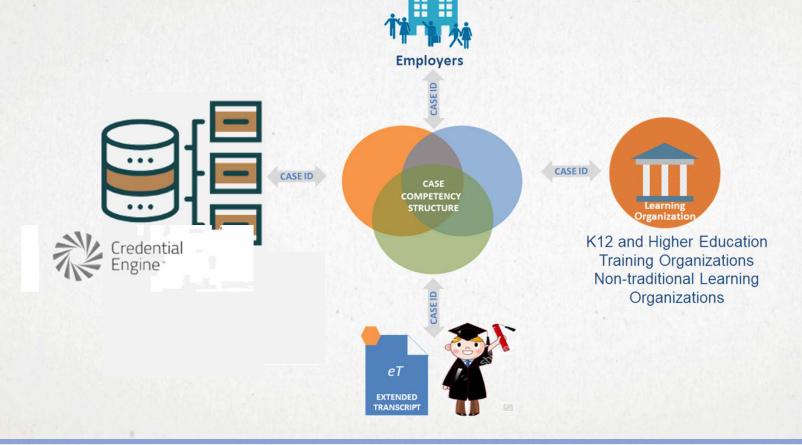




K12 and Higher Education **Training Organizations** Non-traditional Learning Organizations



## CASE Enables Alignment

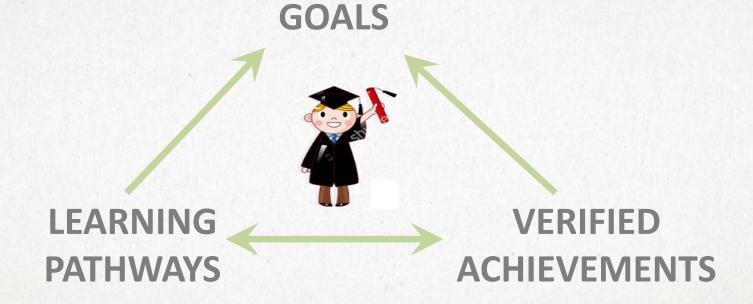




# **Digital Credentials**

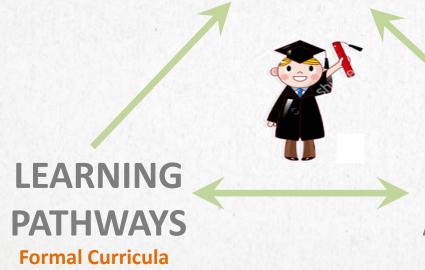


## IMS Vision for Digital Credentials



### IMS Vision for Digital Credentials

GOALS Job Opportunities
Personal Growth and Development



VERIFIED ACHIEVEMENTS

Academic Co-curricular Career Skills



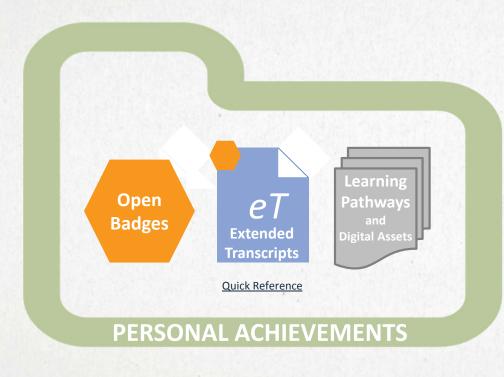
**Informal Pathways** 

## Digital Credentials are for Sharing

- Learner's knowledge, skills and abilities are their valuable assets to leverage and to
- Share with the learner, other institutions and critically, employers
- Modern linked-data structures can be mined in support of 'talent search and acquisition'



#### Four Digital Components



**Applicable Technology Standards** 

**Open Badges** 

**Extended Transcripts\*** 

**Learning Pathways** 

Personal Achievements "Folder"

Bolded items are existing published standards, others specifications are underway.

\*The Extended Transcript is also known as a Comprehensive Student Record (CSR) or Digital Learning Record



# Open Badges



#### Open Badges

- Proven vehicle for communicating skills
- Portable and controllable by the learner
- Scalable
- Verifiable via automated means: e.g. http and Blockchain
- Capable of encapsulating high-quality credentials like extended transcripts







#### Medical Nutrition Therapy 1 Course

Part of the Dietary Manager Certification, this course reviews the medically prescribed diets needed for specific disorders/diseases, Diets for medical conditions such as diabetes mellitus & cardiovascular disease are examined. Nutritional assessment techniques are introduced to evaluate dietary changes needed to manage weight & disease.

This badge is issued by Madison College Continuing Education

Dietary Manager Dietary Manager Certificate Diets For Cardiovascular Disease Diets For Deibetes Mellitus GI Disease State Diets GI Progression Diets Medical Nutrition

Medical Nutrition Therapy Medically Prescribed Diets Modified Diet Menus

Nutritional Assessment Techniques Weight Management

WHAT IT TAKES TO EARN THIS BADGE

Master nutrition concepts

Thorough understanding of health conditions and related diet planning

Identify disease states that affect the GI system

Plan Gi progression diets

Plan modified diets

Address specialized nutrition needs of diabetics

View Additional Information

ANFP Practice Standards: Menu Planning, Calories, and Portion Sizes

ANFP Practice Standards: Documenting Fluid Intake

ANFP Practice Standards: Documenting in the Medical Record

There are many excellent examples of Open **Badge Programs** making a difference today, for example Madison **Technical College** in Wisconsin







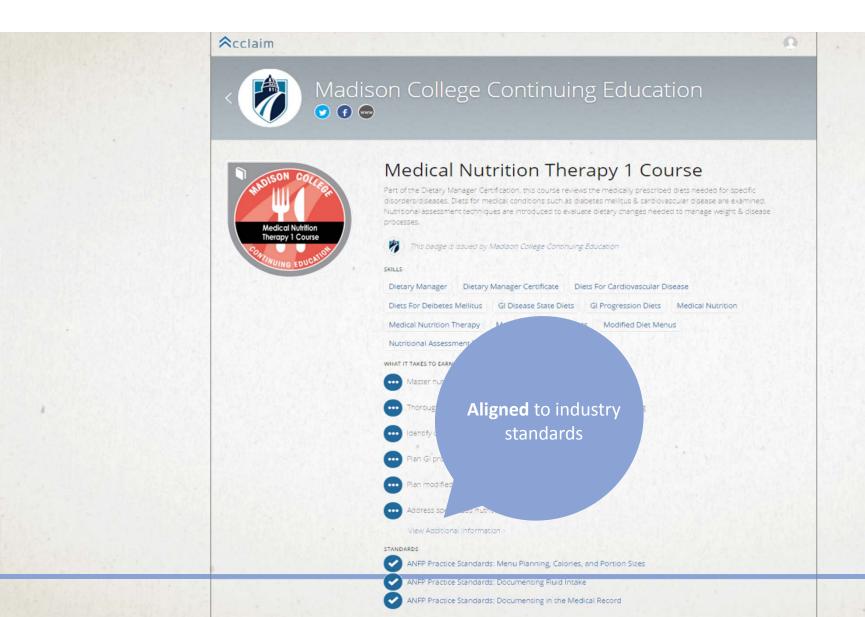
- ••• Thorough understanding of health conditions and related diet planning
- on Identify disease states that affect the Glaystem
- Plan Gi progression diets
- Plan modified diets
- Address specialized nutrition needs of diabetics

View Additional Information -

#### STANDARDS

- ANFP Practice Standards: Menu Planning, Calories, and Portion Sizes
- ✓ ANFP Practice Standards: Documenting Fluid Intake
- ANFP Practice Standards: Documenting in the Medical Record







## **Extended Transcript**



### Extended Transcripts (eT)

- Supports stackable micro-credentials and more complex competency and program models beyond badges
- Not all skills are badged, but all verified skills and achievements should be captured, managed and leveragable by the learner
- eT is a complement and extension to Open Badges
- eT can be linked via an Open Badge and eT can contain Open Badges



### **Extended Transcripts**

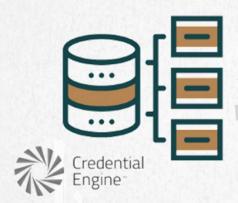




## Relationship with Credential Registry

Each **type of credential** is registered as one entry in the Credential Registry, e.g.

Associate of Science in Forensic Science



"We offer AS in Forensic Science"





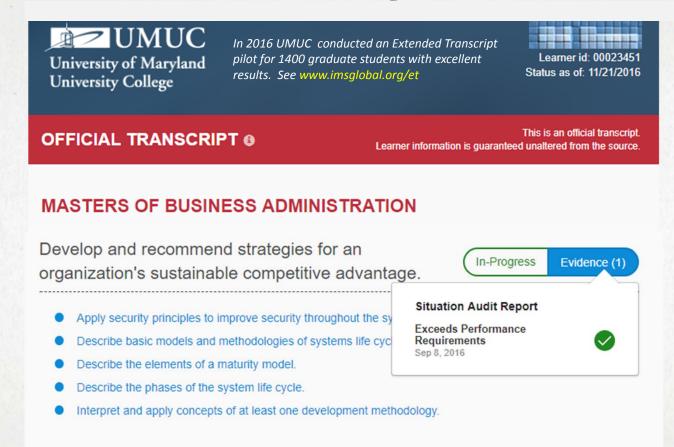
"Olivia Hafez has earned an Assoc. of Science in Forensic Science"



Each learner is issued one extended transcript which can contain multiple achievements and credentials per institution



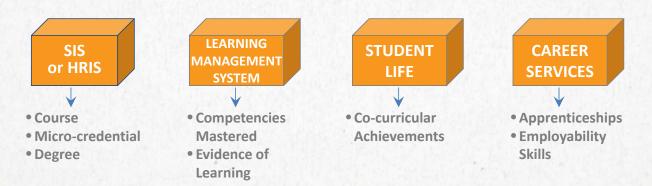
### Phase I Pilot Project – UMUC





## Challenges in Phase I

Achievements and skills have many data sources in the institution or organization



Making learner's achievements difficult to manage and share in useful ways



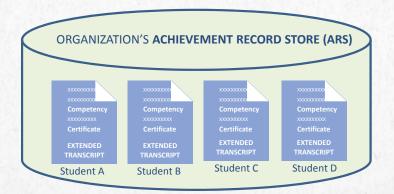
#### Conclusions from eT Phase I

- Organizations need a place to store and manage their learner's achievements beyond courses
- Once collected, the achievement records form a valuable repository of learner knowledge, skills and achievements
- Standardized achievement records can be leveraged at scale



## What If...

Institutions captured learners' verified knowledge, skills and achievements in ways that could help the learner in their employment search?

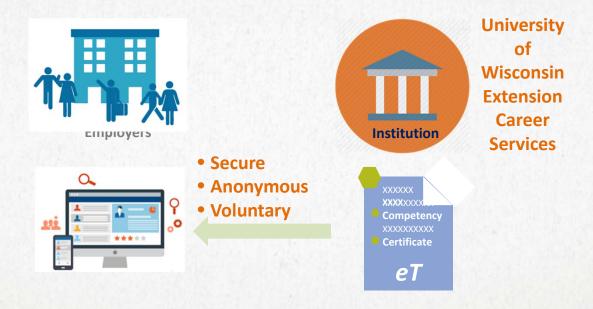


Vision of Phase II *eT* project, an et-based "Achievement Record Store"



#### SkillsCenter™ Search

SkillsCenter Search is a pilot program now being organized with University of Wisconsin Extension that provides anonymous, secure and blind talent search for employer platforms

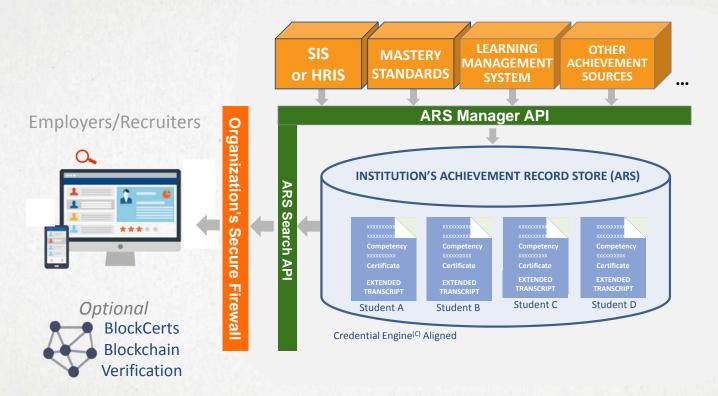


eT achievement records are searchable.



#### SkillsCenter Search™ Architecture

**Learning Organization** 



eT achievement records are verifiable



#### **BlockCerts Extension**

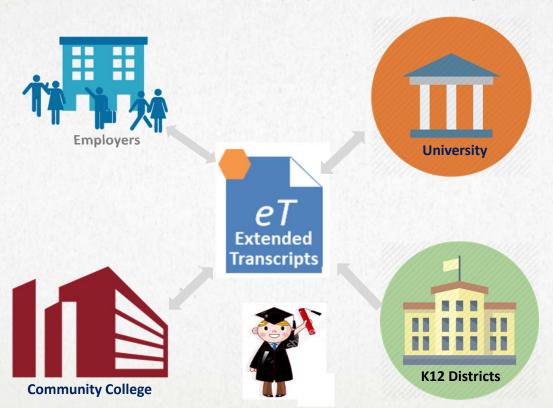
- Blockchain is a promising method to verify issuance when issuer-based verification\* is not available
- Open Badge extension for BlockCerts is in progress within IMS' OB working group
- Will be made available open source for use by product suppliers and institutions to verify the authenticity of issued credentials

\*Open Badge display standards currently provide for real-time verification with the issuer

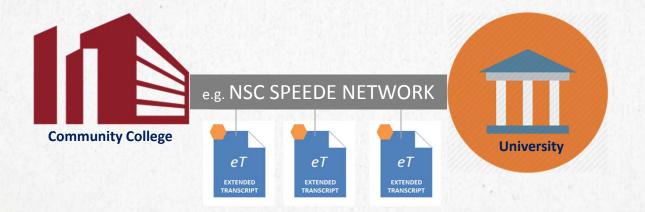


## eT Records are Transportable

Formal, informal and employer-centered learning



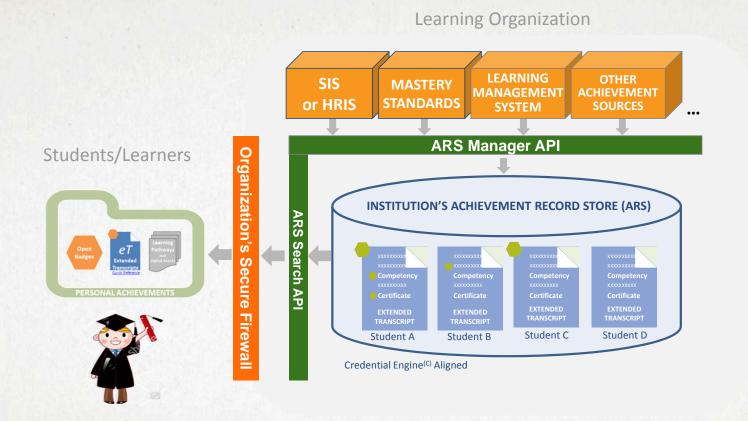
# Portable and Transferrable using Institution's Existing Transport Networks





### Personal Achievements

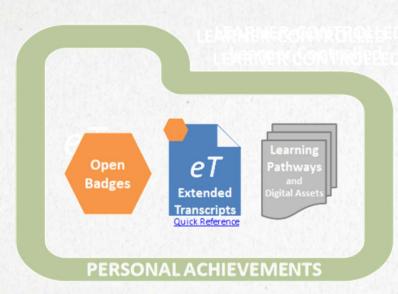




eT achievement records are portable



#### Personal Achievement Records



- Learner Controlled
- Free and Universal
- Personal and securable
- Curatable into verifiable resumes

#### Vision:

A learner's securable personal collection of their digital credentials and assets, manageable online or offline, untethered from a commercial platform but interoperable with any commercial platform



#### Leveraging Verified Personal Skills



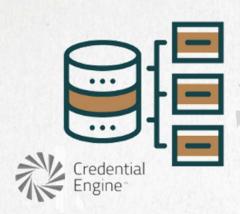
In the near future, learners will be able to connect to job opportunities automatically through standards-based, verified credentials via their personal achievements record



Find and apply for jobs using verified credentials



## An Open, Interoperable Ecosystem















#### **HARMONIZATION THROUGH**

- Shared use cases and workflows
- Mapped relationships among the standards
- Terms and metadata definitions
- Linked data

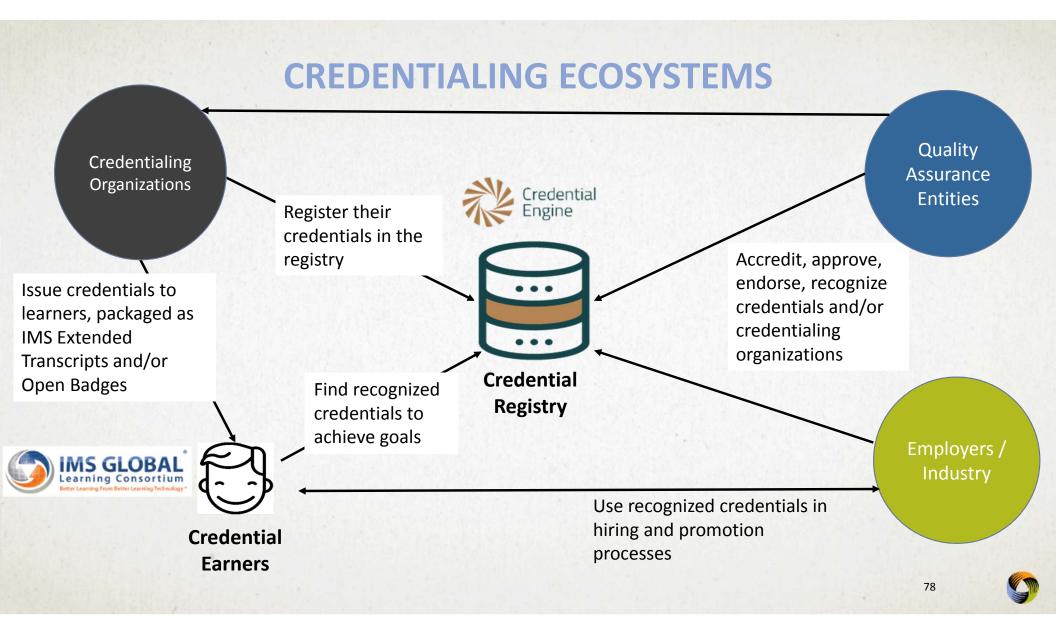






Credential Engine and IMS Global are harmonizing technologies and standards through people and dialogue - get involved!





#### **CREDENTIAL ENGINE**

Contact the Credential Engine team to learn more and include your credentials in the Credential Registry

http://credentialengine.org/contact

- Credential Engine <a href="http://credentialengine.org">http://credentialengine.org</a>
- Use the Credential Engine schemas and technologies <a href="http://credreg.net">http://credreg.net</a>
- Subscribe to receive updates <a href="https://credentialengine.org/articles">https://credentialengine.org/articles</a>
- Join the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) <a href="https://credentialengine.org/contact">https://credentialengine.org/contact</a>



#### **IMS GLOBAL**

- Extended Transcripts (eT) <a href="https://www.imsglobal.org/activity/et">https://www.imsglobal.org/activity/et</a>
- Open Badges (OB) <a href="https://www.imsglobal.org/initiative/enabling-better-digital-credentialing">https://www.imsglobal.org/initiative/enabling-better-digital-credentialing</a>
- Competencies and Academic Standards Exchange (CASE) <a href="https://www.imsglobal.org/case">https://www.imsglobal.org/case</a>
- Join IMS Global and participate in workgroups
   <a href="https://www.imsglobal.org/imsmembership.html">https://www.imsglobal.org/imsmembership.html</a>



#### **CONTACTS**

Deb Everhart, VP Design And Innovation, Learning Objects deverhart@learningobjects.com

Jeanne Kitchens, Associate Director, Center For Workforce Development, Southern Illinois University <a href="mailto:jeannekitchens@siu.edu">jeannekitchens@siu.edu</a>

Mark Leuba, Vice President, Product Management, IMS Global Learning Consortium mleuba@imsglobal.org

