



Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
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Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Vice Chair

Scott D. Pattison
Executive Director and CEO

December 6, 2017

Scott Cheney
Executive Director
Credential Engine
1624 5th St NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Cheney:

We are sorry that we cannot be with you in person to launch this important effort, but want to express our appreciation to the creators and funders of the nation's first Credential Registry.

In our role as governors, and in working with our counterparts across the country, we have seen firsthand that the traditional notions of education and credentialing are being rapidly disrupted by economic and technological changes. New routes to credentialing and career development are coming on the market almost daily. Whether "earn and learn" models such as apprenticeships and on-the-job training, online learning opportunities free from the boundaries of time and space, or new credentialing concepts like portfolios and badges, the landscape for education and training is undergoing a radical transformation. We hope these changes are better aligning workers' skills with the needs of businesses – but we need more data to know for sure.

Across a wide range of industries, employers in our states are trying to adapt to new workplace realities, encountering overwhelming skills gaps, and facing major challenges navigating the new world of talent development. At the same time, workers at all levels – students, job seekers, career-changers – are making life-altering decisions about how to invest in their education and training, with little guidance about the potential impact of those investments.

Thankfully, states are taking the lead on a range of key initiatives to identify and deploy credentials of value. But policymakers, businesses, and workers are looking for better, more comprehensive information that gives meaning to the new world of credentialing – from what various credentials represent in terms of skills and competencies to how one might navigate between and among them, and, ultimately, their economic value.

That's why we applaud Credential Engine for taking the unprecedented and visionary step to capture all credentials in the marketplace in one place. By creating a common credentialing language, we can begin to provide American workers and businesses a transparent resource for navigation, and help state leaders across the country better meet the needs of an evolving workforce.

With best wishes for your success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee
Chair
NGA Education and Workforce Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Daugaard".

Governor Dennis Daugaard
Vice Chair
NGA Education and Workforce Committee