For Immediate Release

Credential Engine to Expand Engagement and Support of a Transparent Credential Data Infrastructure, with Support from Microsoft

Backed by Microsoft Corp., Credential Engine will bring tools and support for credential data transparency to new states with a special focus on the IT sector

August 28, 2019 (Washington, DC) – Today, Credential Engine announced plans to expand state engagement, develop new tools to clarify and maximize the utility of education data, and assist state policymakers with identifying new ways to leverage credential information, thanks to a grant of support from Microsoft Corp. With the new commitment of funding, Credential Engine will work with states to bring transparency to all credentials and develop more specific efforts around credentials for IT and cybersecurity.

"As a technology company, it is our responsibility to make sure that everyone has access to the opportunities available in today's digital economy," said Naria Santa Lucia, Senior Director, Microsoft Philanthropies. "Credential Engine's work to make credential data more understandable and easily comparable is an important step to increasing transparency into the credentials that lead to in-demand jobs in the digital economy."

Credential Engine will kick off this expanded portfolio of states later this year, with a particular eye towards capturing industry recognized IT credentials. The technology sector continues to be a powerhouse for the U.S. economy, with CompTIA projecting IT employment to increase 13 percent from 2016 to 2026. With the median tech sector wage at approximately twice the national average, interest in tech sector education and career ladders are only expected to grow. States will need to understand their current IT credential offerings if they plan to be prepared to keep pace with demand.

"States are at a point right now where they know they need to access and connect credential data in a comprehensive manner if they are to meet their educational and economic goals," said Scott Cheney, Executive Director of Credential Engine. "By expanding our growing state network and providing them with the language, tools, and technical assistance to bring clarity and connectivity to their credentials, we can help states build the data infrastructure they need to provide opportunity and prosperity for their students and workers throughout the 21st century."

Credential Engine is a nonprofit working coast to coast to build full and open credential transparency and literacy.

 ###

Credential Engine is a non-profit whose mission is to create credential transparency, reveal the credential marketplace, increase credential literacy, and empower everyone to make more informed decisions about credentials and their value. Credential Engine receives support from Lumina Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Walmart, Northrop Grumman Foundation, ECMC Foundation, and Microsoft.

Credential Engine Contact: Carrie Samson csamson@credentialengine.org