Credential Engine's Statement of Capabilities Regarding
USDOL's "Strengthening Community Colleges" Grant: September 2020

"In addition, the Department aims to ensure that individuals, employers, education and training providers, and others have access to the most complete, current, and beneficial information about providers, programs, credentials, and skills necessary to make more informed decisions. Access includes having such information fully operable on the semantic web and able to be used in modern applications, tools, and services to support better understanding of available pathways; and the development of improved navigation and guidance tools to help individuals make better decisions about which pathways are best for them. To this end, the Department requires that information about all credentials (including, but not limited to, badges, certificates, certifications, licenses, and degrees of all levels and types) and competencies (knowledge, skills, and abilities) developed or delivered through the use of federal funds be made publicly accessible through the use of linked open data formats that support full transparency and interoperability, such as through the use of the credential transparency description language specifications." (page 11)

Specific Language on Linked Open Data & CTDL in Proposals

The explicit provisions requiring the publishing of data related to credentials and competencies in linked open data schema makes the specific reference "credential transparency description language"—the specification hosted by Credential Engine.

Credential Engine's technologies include the only linked open data schemas that provide a proven, common language for describing credentials and competencies (the Credential Transparency Description Languages, or CTDL), open APIs, tools for publishing information as Linked Open Data, and a national Credential Registry for making the data available and transparent. The Credential Registry is the largest repository of the diverse range of credential and competency types and providers, and continues to grow. Currently these technologies are used by hundreds of education and training organizations, certification and licensing bodies, the U.S. Navy, 18 states and regions, and a growing number of vendors and developers.

The CTDL schema includes over 500 classes, properties, and terms for the rich description of credentials, competencies, skills, sectors, occupations, providers, quality assurance entities and processes, assessments, pathways, learning objects, outcomes, and more. The CTDL is a living

language that continues to evolve. No other linked open data format like it exists, and Credential Engine has unmatched technical, programmatic, application, and policy expertise.

Working with Credential Engine and using these open technologies ensures interoperability, data reuse, and scalability from community colleges and systems to regions and states to national and international levels. Credential Engine is a full partner and will work with college applicants and credential and competency partners to publish required and essential information in the Registry and ensure that these data are able to be used within regions and states as part of tools and services for the benefit of students, learners, workers, employers, educators, policymakers, and others.

All requirements with regard to publishing linked open data related to credentials and competencies, as well as other significant benefits, will be met through the partnership with Credential Engine and the use of CTDL and the Credential Registry.

To learn more, please read the Credential Transparency & Interoperability slides here.