Credential Transparency Illuminates Paths to a Better Future

There are 1 million credentials offered in the U.S. With so many to choose from—and without widespread adoption of standards for comparing and evaluating them—people get lost and lose out on opportunity. Together, we and our partners are working to build a linked open data network that everyone can access for timely and trusted information about credentials.

**CREDENTIAL PROVIDERS**

- More clearly describe the credentials we offer, their quality and value, and how they meet the needs of individuals, businesses, and the community.

**EMPLOYERS**

- Discover new people with the skills and competencies we need for the jobs of today while effectively planning for and signaling the needs of tomorrow.

**LEARNERS & WORKERS**

- Understand the availability, costs, time, and value of the different credentials available to us. Transparency lets us see how best to get where we’re going.

**POLICYMAKERS & THOUGHT LEADERS**

- Better understand the credentials available, which are high quality, and can better support and inform people to meet talent and economic needs.

**WHAT:**

Credential transparency makes essential information about credentials and competencies public, easily accessible, and actionable so that credentials can be better understood and pursued based on what it takes to earn them, what they represent, and the jobs they can lead to.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Credential transparency is made possible by technology. The Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) schema allows us to catalog, organize, and compare credentials and related information. Credential data from authoritative sources using CTDL is openly available in the Credential Registry for anyone, anytime, anywhere to search and compare credentials.

**HOW:**

- **INVESTMENTS**
  - Time
  - Money

- **CAREERS**
  - Workforce needs
  - Advancement

- **DIPLOMAS**
  - High school
  - GED

- **CERTIFICATES**
  - Training
  - Continuing Education

- **DEGREES**
  - Two-year
  - Four-year

- **MICROCREDENTIALS**
  - Badges
  - MOOCs

**WHY:**

The easier it is to access and use comparable information about credentials, the easier it is for people to find the most effective paths to learn the right skills and find the best jobs. Credential transparency ensures equitable information about quality pathways to opportunities, makes those pathways discoverable, and empowers individuals along the way.

**PATHWAYS**

- We’re doing our part to create and share value from transparency.

- We know the skills linked to specific jobs!

- How can I prepare for a good job?

- Transparency helps us be more efficient and flexible by using data to describe jobs and align opportunity.

- We can discover new skills to support our business needs.

- We are better prepared to navigate our careers.

- We can better understand the credentials available, which are high quality, and can better support and inform people to meet talent and economic needs.