



Credential Engine Signs On to Support Forsyth Tech's Strengthening Community Colleges Vision

Forsyth Technical Community College and Credential Engine will work to leverage the power of transparent credential data to strengthen the region's education and training market.

August 18, 2021 (Washington, D.C. and Winston-Salem, N.C.)—Forsyth Technical Community College is leading a consortium of 8 community colleges across the Piedmont Triad region as part of its Aligning the Workforce Education System for Manufacturing (AWESM) project. AWESM is made possible by the Strengthening Community Colleges grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor. National non-profit Credential Engine has signed onto the effort to help create the necessary and transparent data infrastructure to strengthen the education and training market in the Forsyth region.

"We are very excited to work with Forsyth Tech and its partners to build a linked open data network everyone can access," said Scott Cheney, CEO of Credential Engine. "We often hear that data is power, and having transparent, reliable, and accessible data is a public good that can benefit people across the region."

Over the next four years, Credential Engine and Forsyth Tech will work with Alamance Community College, Davidson-Davie Community College, Guilford Technical Community College, Montgomery Community College, Randolph Community College, Rockingham Community College, and Surry Community College. An important goal for these colleges will be creating a Business & Industry Leadership Team (BILT), giving regional employers a co-leadership role for technical programs in machining and mechatronics. Through the BILT, these institutions will define students' skills and competencies to meet workforce needs and create badges that can clearly signal students' skills.

Credential Engine will work with these colleges to discover the greatest information needs, build appropriate data infrastructures, and publish credential data across the region. Data is a big piece of helping community colleges develop the capacity needed to meet the country's demand for a skilled workforce. With transparent linked open data, Forsyth Tech and its partners will be able to better assess and develop pathways through education, training, and careers, including areas of emphasis such as computer integrated machining, welding, industrial systems technology, and mechatronics.

"Many people in the community—current and future students, workers, employers—are lacking the information they need to make the best decisions for them. Through this collaboration, we will be in a position to give better data to the region so people can better uncover, understand, and act upon the education and training opportunities available to them. Ultimately, this will help create and build equity throughout our community, which is what we exist to do here at Forsyth Tech," said Dr. Janet N. Spriggs, President of Forsyth Technical Community College.

Credential Engine will provide technical assistance and guidance so that credentials, competencies, skills, pathway components, job connections, and occupational frameworks associated with Forsyth's Strengthening Community Colleges grants will be published as linked open data to the Credential Registry. By mapping their credential data into the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) and publishing it into the Registry, credential information can be fully integrated into new and existing tools, services, platforms, and resources. These tools can be used to better serve students, workers, employers, educators, and others so they may more effectively and efficiently understand and navigate the education and training market.

For more information about this partnership or the contents of this announcement, please contact Jennifer Briones, Project Manager for Credential Engine, at jbriones@credentialengine.org.

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About Credential Engine:

Credential Engine is a non-profit whose mission is to map the credential landscape with clear and consistent information, fueling the creation of resources that empower people to find the pathways that are best for them. Credential Engine currently has partnerships with 27 states and regions across the US. Learn more about Credential Engine at www.credentialengine.org.

About Forsyth Technical Community College:

Forsyth Technical Community College advances student success through excellence in learning, completion, equity, and post-graduation outcomes. Forsyth Tech provides students with guided educational pathways into a competitive workforce for the community and global economy. The college offers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates in more than 200 programs of study, including programs that promote personal and professional development through non-credit courses and seminars, as well as customized training for business and industry. Forsyth Tech serves more than 21,000 students with approximately 1,500 full and part-time faculty and staff. For additional information, please visit forsythtech.edu and follow on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.



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