Today's credentialing marketplace is a confusing maze of certifications, degrees, certificates, licenses, badges and other credentials. Job seekers, students, and workers have more options than ever to help them get ahead, but a lack of transparency in credentials causes confusion for them and for employers looking to build their workforce. With the explosion in the number and variety of credentials over the past decade, there is an ever-growing need for these stakeholders to be able to easily understand and compare different credentials.

With support from Lumina Foundation, the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy, Workcred (an affiliate of the American National Standards Institute) and Southern Illinois University launched the Credential Transparency Initiative (CTI) in 2013 to create greater transparency in the credentialing system by:

1. Developing a common language, known as the Credential Transparency Description Language, for describing the key features (e.g., competencies, transfer value, third-party approval status, etc.) of all kinds of credentials, credentialing organizations, and the quality assurance bodies that accredit, approve, endorse, or recognize them.

2. Building a voluntary, web-based credential registry for aggregating and sharing the resulting comparable information.

3. Creating and testing a search-and-discovery application that enables access to this information by employers, educators, students, career counselors, app developers, and others.

This effort has been advised by an Executive Committee made up of senior representatives of the American Association of Community Colleges, American Council on Education, Business Roundtable, Committee for Economic Development of the Conference Board, National Association of Manufacturers' Manufacturing Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and University Professional and Continuing Education Association.

Lumina Foundation and the Business Roundtable are working now with the project team to transform CTI into Credential Engine, a new nonprofit to take the recently launched prototype registry to scale.

To ensure the relevance of its work, Credential Engine will engage advisory groups from four key stakeholder groups: postsecondary education institutions/systems; business; certification and licensure bodies; and quality assurance (accreditors, endorsers, approval and recognition bodies).

Credential Engine will maintain the Credential Transparency Description Language, Credential Engine Registry, and prototype search app (named WorkIt) under open source and content licenses (e.g., Creative Commons) in order to promote a competitive applications marketplace that will produce more specialized apps in the future.

Getting Involved

Credential Engine is currently working with numerous colleges, universities, certification, and other credentialing organizations that are participating as pilot-site partners by providing registry information on one or more credentials. Pilot-site partners receive technical assistance in publishing to the registry, learn about "linked data" and related Web 3.0 technologies, gain greater visibility in the market, and can shape the system's development. Organizations interested in participating should contact the project team at **credtransparency@workcred.org.**

For more information, including a video describing this work, visit us at www.credentialengine.org

Pilot-site partners are at the forefront of this initiative to drive a more coherent and transparent credentialing marketplace by making information about their credentials or quality assurance processes available to the registry. To learn more about becoming a registry partner, contact us at credtransparency@workcred.org.

PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Bellevue University
- Brandman University
- DePaul University
- Lipscomb University
- Moravian College
- Southern Methodist University
- Stanford University
- Texas Lutheran University
- University of Advancing Technology
- University of La Verne
- Western Governors University

STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Central Michigan University
- Charter Oak State College
- Ferris State University
- Institute of Certified Professional Managers, James Madison University
- Polk State College
- Thomas Edison State College
- University of California – Riverside Extension
- University of Maryland University College
- University of Wisconsin - Extension
- Western Kentucky University

COMMUNITY COLLEGES/AA

- Dallas County Community College District
- Front Range Community College
- Gateway Community & Technical College
- Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana
- LaGuardia Community College
- Madison Area Technical College
- Miami Dade College
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- Monroe Community College (SUNY)
- Rio Salado College
- Rowan College at Burlington County

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Capella
- Kaplan University
- University of Phoenix/Apollo Education Group

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS

- American Association of Medical Assistants
- American Health Information Management Association
- American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute
- American Medical Certification Association
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Welding Society
- Behavioral Intervention Certification Council
- Board of Certified Safety Professionals
- (ISC)²
- INFORMS
- Manufacturing Skills Standards Council
- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- National Board of Certification & Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators
- National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies
- National Institute for Metalworking Skills
- NOCTI and Nocti Business Solutions
- Pharmacy Technician Certification Board
- Professional Evaluation and Certification Board
- Training Industry, Inc.

INDUSTRY CERTIFICATES

- Center for Energy Workforce Development
- National Registry of Food Safety Professionals
- National Restaurant Association
- NSF International Training and Education
- Western Association of Food Chains

OTHER

- ABRET Neurodiagnostic Credentialing and Accreditation
- Illinois Nurse Aide Testing

QUALITY ASSURANCE BODIES

- Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges
- American National Standards Institute
- Institute for Credentialing Excellence – National Commission for Certifying Agencies
- WASC Senior College and University Commission