ELI Online Event 2017
Microcredentials and Digital Badging in Higher Education

July 12, 2017 | noon–4:00 p.m. (ET)

One in five colleges have issued digital badges, according to the results of a recent survey conducted by University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) and Pearson of 190 institutions. Today, all kinds of organizations, from higher education institutions to professional associations to employers, are issuing digital microcredentials. The microcredentials could be in job-related soft skills, such as in communication, working with others and customer relations, or in critical reasoning, logic and problem solving. They also recognize technical skill development, such as content or assessments on data science, geographic information systems, or coding. Join us for this event, where we’ll explore various issues and developments in microcredentialing and digital badging in higher education.

- What is the employer perspective on microcredentialing and digital badging?
- How do digital badges support competency based learning and a multi-dimensional transcript?
- What are appropriate indicators of quality and validity in digital badging programs?
- What are the most effective employer engagement strategies?
- What are some key drivers for academically focused badging initiatives in higher education?

Is This Event for You?

This online event will bring together a variety of teaching and learning professionals to explore successful models for leadership in teaching and learning. The session will be valuable for:

- Learning technologists and instructional designers

Register Today: https://events.educause.edu/eli/focus-sessions/2017/microcredentials-and-digital-badging-in-higher-education
Introductions

**Donna Liss**
Chief Information Officer, Truman State University

**Cathy Bates**
Senior Consultant, Vantage Technology Consulting Group

**Donna Petherbridge**
Associate Vice Provost, DELTA, NC State University

**Mary Bold**
Associate CIO & Chief eLearning Strategist, University of Washington Bothell

**Mark Leuba**
Vice President, Product Management, IMS Global Learning Consortium

**Veronica Diaz**
Director of Online Programs and Associate Director, EDUCAUSE
Agenda

• Learn about microcredentialing and digital badging as valid records of learning
• Compare and contrast microcredentialing with a traditional credit
• Discuss the impact of alternative credentialing on higher education
Definitions

• **Certificates**
  - Comfortable, familiar. Typically issued by institutions for programs of student that do not culminate in a degree.

• **Microcredentialing**
  - Granular, digitally presented certifications offering evidence an individual has mastered a skill or specific area of knowledge.

• **Digital Badge**
  - “a visual way of displaying both curricular and cocurricular experiences and achievements” (Fain, 2016)
  - Offered via Credly and others providers.
Definitions

• Backpack
  • Digital repository of badges for recipient

• Nanodegree
  • Online certification training in a very specific skillset; example: Udacity’s technical nanodegrees in areas such as “Android App Development”

• Infographic (Pearson & UPCEA)
Discussion Questions

• What are you doing at your institution to provide opportunities for recognizable, alternative credentialing beyond the traditional transcript?

• Who are you partnering with, if anyone at all (vendors, other institutions, partners) (basic/free services, backpacks)?

• How do you get your faculty and employers to view this as valid? Who really is the audience (stakeholders) for these?
Discussion Questions

- How does this impact current work and services, what does this mean for the changing role of IT?
- What are the different uses for badges at an institution?
- What are all the potential impacts that may occur in higher ed to our services (transcripts, learning, etc.)? How should we prepare for that? How do digital credentials affect who we think of as our “students” over the short/long term?
Discussion Questions

• How might digital credentials support learning and student success efforts?
  • Transformed digital transcripts?
  • Signals of incremental progress/motivation?
  • Enhanced employment opportunities or opportunities prior to graduation?
  • Modularization of content?
Resources

- Dillow, C. Want a high-paying job? Get a 'nanodegree'
  Retrieved September 16, 2016, from

- Fain, P. Digital, Verified and Less Open. Retrieved September 16, 2016, from

  Retrieved September 16, 2016, from
Resources

- Also see the EDUCAUSE Library resources: https://library.educause.edu/topics/teaching-and-learning/badges
- http://www.educause.edu/badging
- Connecting Credentials: over 100 co-sponsors working on a national dialogue and creating resources for a standardized learning-based credentialing system
- Credential Transparency Initiative: aligning workforce needs to corporate and higher education models, testing one database model
ELI Online Event 2017
Microcredentials and Digital Badging in Higher Education

July 12, 2017 | noon−4:00 p.m. (ET)

One in five colleges have issued digital badges, according to the results of a recent survey conducted by University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) and Pearson of 190 institutions. Today, all kinds of organizations, from higher education institutions to professional associations to employers, are issuing digital microcredentials. The microcredentials could be in job-related soft skills, such as in communication, working with others and customer relations, or in critical reasoning, logic and problem solving. They also recognize technical skill development, such as content or assessments on data science, geographic information systems, or coding. Join us for this event, where we’ll explore various issues and developments in microcredentialing and digital badging in higher education.

- What is the employer perspective on microcredentialing and digital badging?
- How do digital badges support competency based learning and a multi-dimensional transcript?
- What are appropriate indicators of quality and validity in digital badging programs?
- What are the most effective employer engagement strategies?
- What are some key drivers for academically focused badging initiatives in higher education?

Is This Event for You?

This online event will bring together a variety of teaching and learning professionals to explore successful models for leadership in teaching and learning. The session will be valuable for:

- Learning technologists and instructional designers

Register Today: https://events.educause.edu/eli/focus-sessions/2017/microcredentials-and-digital-badging-in-higher-education