Moving Forward with Exploration of the Changing Credential Environment

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Mission: To strengthen workforce quality by improving the credentialing system, ensuring its ongoing relevance, and preparing employers, workers, educators, and governments to use it effectively.

Vision: A labor market which relies on the relevance, quality, and value of workforce credentials for opportunities, growth, and development.
There continues to be fast growth in the number and types of credentials
Understanding how to navigate the credentialing system can be difficult.

THE U.S. POST-SECONDARY CREDENTIAILING SYSTEM

Federal Government
Federal Regulation/Licensure

Apprenticeships

Employers

Boot Camps*

Higher Education

State System
Governor, State Legislature
State Regulation/Licensure

Federations of State Boards

Academic Institutional Accreditation

Certification Bodies
Specialized Academic Accreditation

Professional/Trade Associations
Accreditation: Certificates & Certifications
Training/Education Providers

* Although boot camps initially existed outside of the higher education system, there is increasing interest of universities to develop partnerships with boot camps.

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You never know what you are going to get

A BUYER-BEWARE ENVIRONMENT!
The rapid growth of credentials demands more national criteria to determine quality and value of credentials.
There are more and more credentials being developed by employers and associations to fulfill the need for upskilling and reskilling.
Certification issuers are building “certification pathways,” but these pathways should be aligned with academic and career pathways to allow individuals the flexibility to adapt and skill as needed.
Workplace learning is an essential component of learning that will enhance outcomes and be more aligned with industry needs, but there is currently no standard
Purpose of a National Workplace Learning Standard

Provide guidance to:
- Issuers/creators for developing and administering quality work-based learning programs
- Stakeholders for determining the quality of a program

Include criteria for:
- The entity offering the program
- The specific work-based learning program

Establish the foundation for:
- Recognition and/or accreditation of a specific entity that
  - Offers work-based learning programs
  - Issues a credential to individuals after successful completion
There is also a need for the industry credential community to begin linking administrative data with academic data and wage and employment data to begin creating “outcome-based pathways”

**Examples of Insights Gained by Linking Data Sets:**

- **Student level education outcomes for certification holders:**
  - Degree attainment, including award date, degree title and major, and institution awarding
  - Enrollment status in Title-IV education institutions

- **Aggregate education outcomes for cohort of certification holders:**
  - Highest degree or any degree attained by percentages
  - Institution type by previous enrollment
  - Top 5 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIPs)

- **Aggregate labor market outcomes since last credential:**
  - Average wages since last credential overall and by demographics, such as, gender, race and ethnicity, and age groups, and credential attainment level
  - Average wages by credential pathway progression
  - Entrance and retention in industry sector after credential is awarded
For More Information

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