

Overview

Credly and the American Council on Education's Learning Evaluation service have uniquely leveraged their combined networks in a way that makes it easier for students to pursue credit from academic institutions for workplace learning recognized by standards-based digital credentials.

The Challenge

It has long been both necessary and difficult to facilitate collaboration between colleges, universities, and employers to create an agile, prepared, accessible workforce by connecting learning across formal and informal contexts. It's been especially difficult to facilitate this collaboration at scale in order to reduce inequities and help more people achieve credentials that open up new economic opportunities.

The Solution

Thanks to support from the Lumina Foundation, ACE-evaluated training providers can now issue digital credentials on Credly's Acclaim platform. Students receive recommendations for next steps in their educational journey and use the platform to send a complete record of all of their digital credentials managed on Credly's Acclaim platform through an official transcript delivered directly to a registrar or academic institution. The transcript is based on verified, standards-based digital credentials and contains college credit recommendations issued by ACE, as well as competencies, evidence of learning, and other important context and content missing from traditional transcripts.

Learning Impact Outcomes

By placing all of the information colleges need to grant credit at their digital fingertips, the new transcripts make it easier than ever to honor what students know and are able to do as part of their educational journey. When learners combine their ACE-endorsed courses with other digital credentials on Credly's platform, they can provide the full context of their learning across relevant achievements unique to them. Students control their credentials on a secure platform and put them to use for free. In addition to increasing the efficiency and reliability of admissions and credit decisions now, this project can help institutions connect their graduates with employers and more effectively engage with adult learners at various career points.

ROI

In just the first three months since the program launched in October 2019, ACE issued digital credentials through Credly's Acclaim platform for 12 different organizations, and over 10,000 transcripts have been sent to registrars, academic institutions and employers. The size of the learner population benefiting from the new services is expected to increase into the hundreds of thousands, and we will soon have data on which to evaluate how post-traditional learners put their credentials to use and the outcomes improved by robust credit for prior learning programs at supportive colleges. In the long term, this network approach to standards-based digital credentials could radically alter the college journey by placing more agency in the hands of students and by relying less on outdated proxies of achievement and more on an exchange of competencies and learning achievements acquired in and out of the classroom with institutions that place a premium on identifying and recruiting students with workforce-ready skills.