Connecticut Credential Registry Initiative
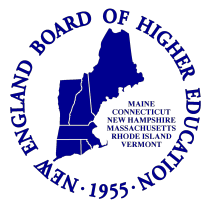
Bringing Transparency and Credential Literacy to the Marketplace

Credential Engine™

NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION · 1955 ·
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CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
GENIUS OF CONNECTICUT

WELCOME REMARKS

Tim Larson, Executive Director
Office of Higher Education

THE NEBHE INITATITIVE:
HIGH VALUE CREDENTIALS FOR NEW ENGLAND (HVCNE)

Proliferation of Credentials

Credential Engine™
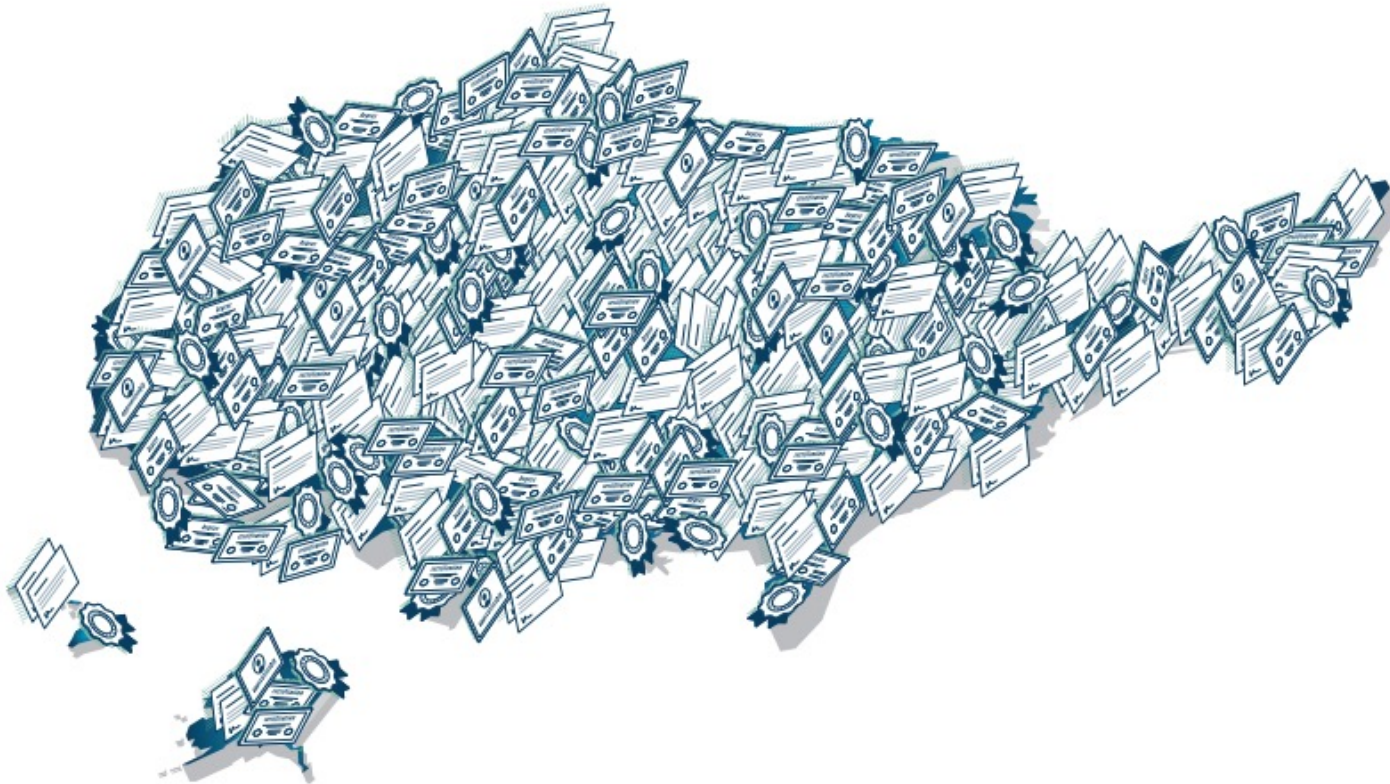
Nation-wide (1 million+)

- **359,713** credentials issued by postsecondary education institutions

- **9,390** credentials from MOOC providers

- **549,712** credentials from non-academic organizations

- **48,919** credentials from public and private secondary schools

Connecticut (~5,000)

- **2,262** degrees

- **1,264** certificates

- **1,590** apprenticeships

- **345** licenses

- **136** high school diplomas

Education and skills are the key to economic security, mobility, and vitality for individuals, employers, and nations.

Challenges addressed by **HVCNE:**

- Credential marketplace **inefficient** and **lacks transparency**.

- Proliferation of **number** and **types** of labor market credentials.

- Confusion about credentials' **meaning**, **content**, **quality**, **value**.

- No standardized, common **framework** to describe credentials.

- **Misalignment** between labor market demands and educational competencies.

- No **mechanism for stacking credentials** based on "competencies."

Bringing Transparency to _all_ Credentials

Apprenticeship	Badge	Certificate	Certification	Degree	Diploma	License	Micro-Credential

The registry includes _all_ kinds of credentials and their competencies.

The information is provided directly by the organizations issuing credentialing.

Use Cases

Through the open app marketplace, we anticipate a wide range of uses of the data in the Registry, including but in no way limited to:

- **Students / Workers**
  - By publishing health, IT, life/biosciences and business credentials in New England on the Registry, prospective students can better search for and understand their education and training options in the region and the competencies acquired through these credentials, helping them make more informed decisions
- **Career Exploration**
  - In the future, the Registry can be connected to career exploration tools used by students, academic advisors and career counselors to identify career pathways and relevant credentials
- **Employers**
  - Assessing credentials and their competencies via the Registry, employers can expand their view of credentials to a wider range of providers and make more informed hiring decisions.
- **Educators**
  - By reviewing credential offerings within an institution and across systems at secondary and postsecondary education and training levels, institution leaders can make more informed choices about course offerings, competencies and delivery models.
- **States**
  - Registry data can inform public policy decisions around workforce development, career pathways, and strategies to meet attainment goals

OUR VISION

Investing in credential transparency infrastructure will allow New England's residents, education and training providers, employers and policymakers to:
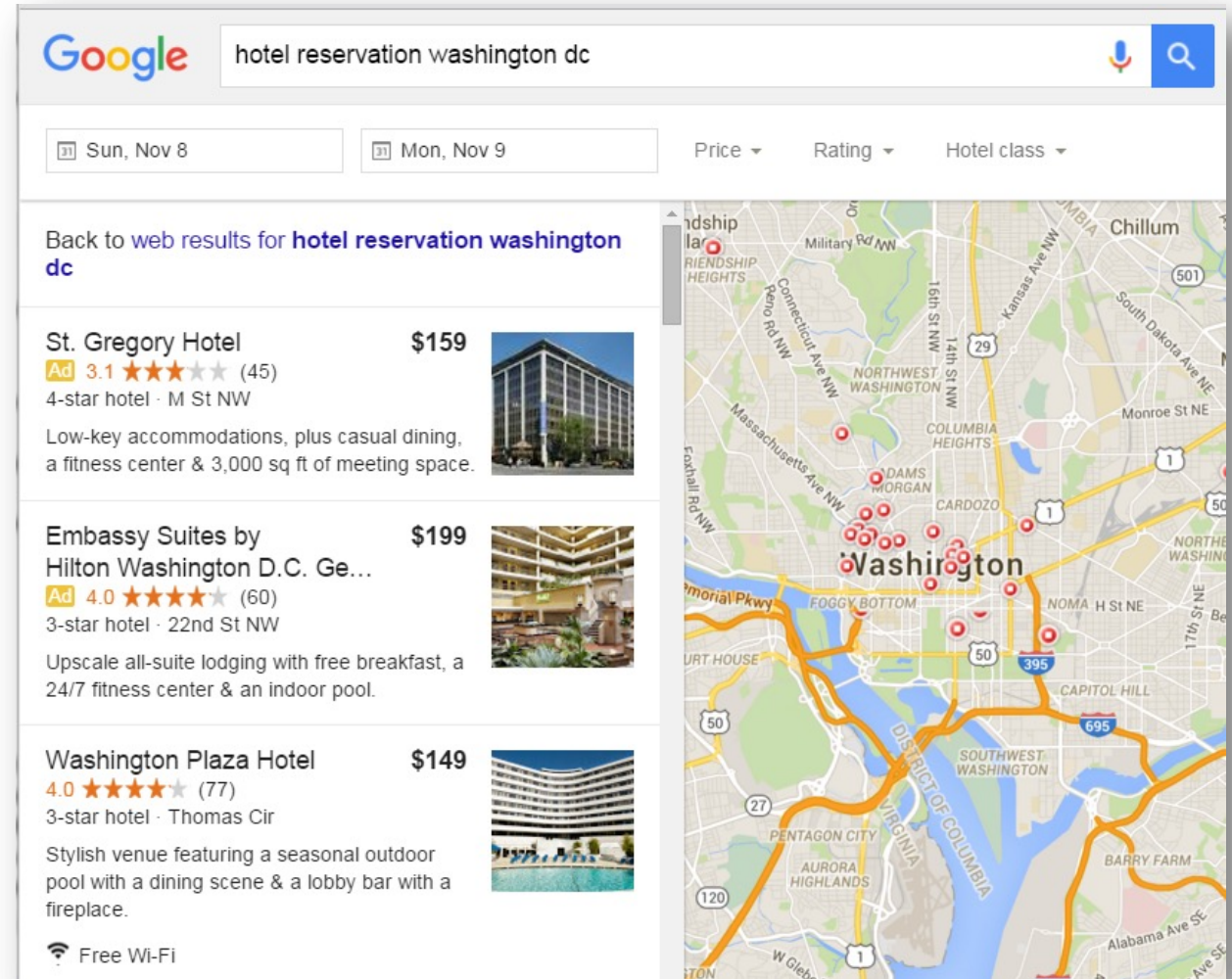
- Chart clear paths to and from credentials and jobs
- Utilize a common language and coalesce on needed skills and competencies
- Integrate education and training credential information, labor market insights, and individuals' credential and skill attainment in a meaningful way
- Harness technology and create a "Zillow" for education and training

CREDENTIAL ENGINE

Moving Credentials to **Linked Data**

The World Wide Web is moving away from links to documents and **toward "linked data."**

- Google, job, travel, commerce and other aggregators use common terminology (metadata) that has been accepted as web standard (e.g., Schema.org).

- Using consistent metadata for key features of credentials, the registry enables job seekers, students, workers, and employers to search for and compare credentials.

- Credential Engine has started the process of gaining recognition from schema.org for the CTDL to be the first means to search and compare all credentials on the web.

Credential Finder Search App Prototype

credentialfinder.org

- Shows the credential information from the Registry.

- Provides context for understanding the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL).

Credential Transparency: A National Movement

17+ states and regions using the CTDL and Registry.

Lead organizations include:
- Departments of Labor
- Coordinating Workforce Boards
- Departments of Higher Education
- Multi-agency partnerships

Goals:
- Sector-focused strategies (e.g. healthcare) to increase info about creds + develop tools for employers
- Replacing ETPL, revamping application processes for career schools
- Depicting postsecondary education pathways
- Improve internal data systems
- Create digital resumes linked to credential information
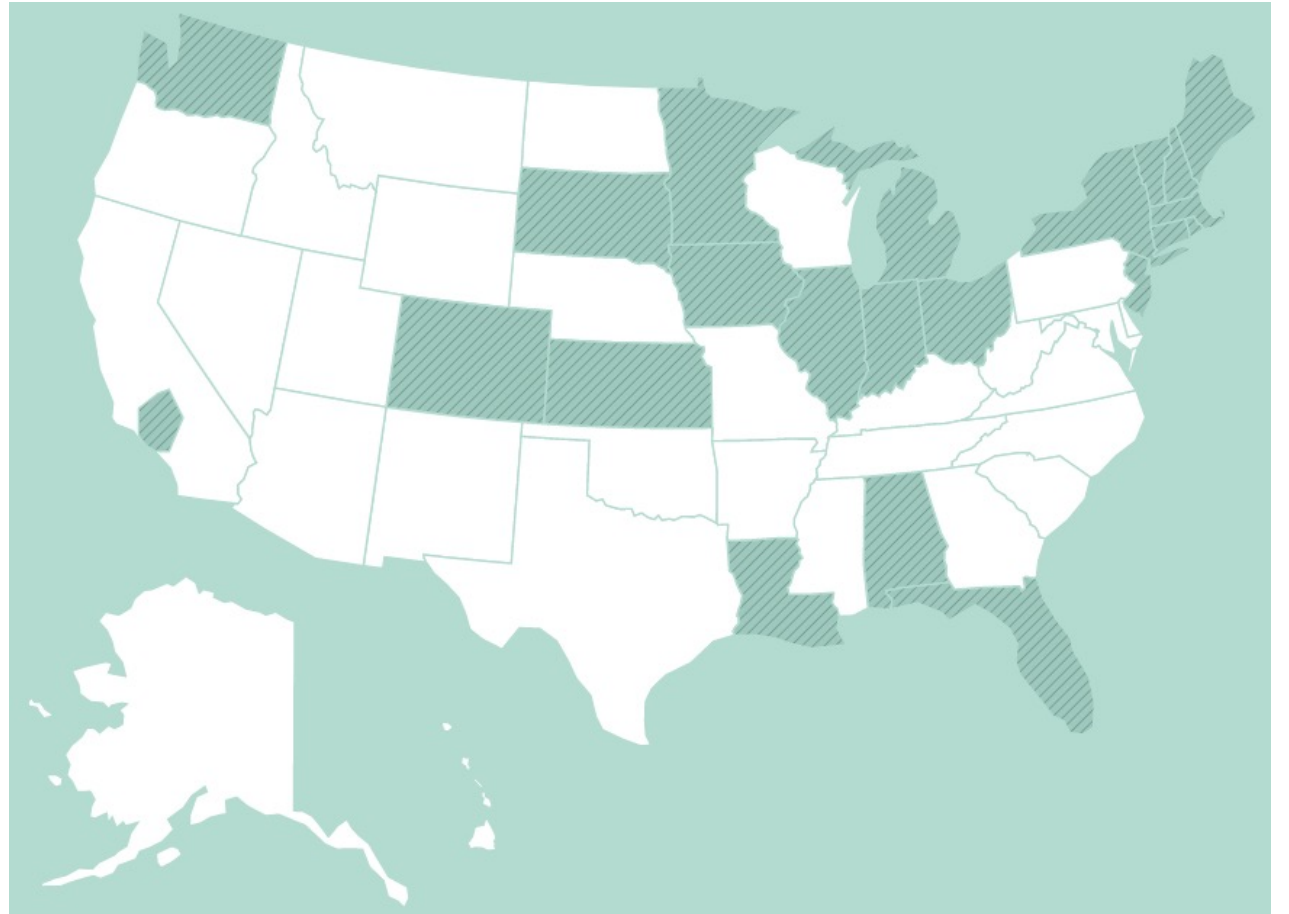
Credential Transparency: A National Movement

"For states that are working toward **attainment goals** or are looking to increase their labor force participation rate, now is the time to get workers into a short-term, non-degree training program or something beyond that. The most important factor is that these are stackable, transparent, and known. That is where our partnership with Credential Engine has been most impactful." -Nick Moore, Alabama Governor's Office

Even before the COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn, states were laser-focused on preparing their residents for jobs. Now, with millions looking to **upskill and re-skill** as jobs have disappeared, the need to have coordinated, effective, results-oriented education and workforce strategies -- and states can't effectively accomplish these goals without comprehensive information about credentials.

- Michigan is publishing all data available about licenses, high school diplomas, postsecondary certificates and degrees, and programs on their ETPL to make **career pathways** more easily navigable and show which credentials are required or recommended along those pathways.
- New Jersey is building a **"smart disclosure"** tool that uses the CTDL as its backbone that will help jobseekers obtain their desired employment and earnings outcomes; employers find better qualified employees; and regulators make data-driven decisions that weed out fraudulent and low-quality training providers.
- Colorado, Alabama, and other states are using data published to the Registry to determine the **quality of credentials** offered in their state using the National Skills Coalition framework -- and signal which credentials meet their state standards publicly.

CONNECTICUT CREDENTIAL REGISTRY INITIATIVE

Legislative Mandate

2022-23 Budget – Senate Bill 1202, Public Act No. 21-2
The Office of Higher Education will "create a database of credentials offered in the state for the purpose of explaining the skills and competencies earned through a credential in uniform terms and plain language."

By 2021, the following entities will submit credential information to the database:
- Regional workforce development board
- Community action agency
- Institution of higher education
- Private occupational school
- Provider of an alternate route to certification program approved by the State Board of Education
- Provider of a training program listed on the Labor Department's Eligible Training Provider List

- Previously, all postsecondary occupational schools were required to report credential information to OHE.

- Legislation expands OHE's current credential inventory activities.
  - *Collect more information about credentials*
  - *Collect credentials from more sources (e.g. ARC, EPTL)*

- OHE will serve as the publisher of credentials to Credential Engine.

- OHE working with OWS and NEBHE for implementation

Data Captured in the Registry

Required by Credential Engine	**Required (if available) by Credential Engine + HVCNE**
• Offered by [Institution] • Credential Type • Name • Description • Webpage	• CIP Code • Accredited by • Approved by • Competencies • Availability At • Requirements
Required by HVCNE	**Recommended by HVCNE**
• Audience Level Type • Learning Delivery Type • Estimated Duration • Industry Type • Occupation Type • Preparation for • Subjects • Learning opportunities	• Estimated Cost • Estimated Earnings

Credential Engine

Fields collected by OHE,
highlighted in red

Current Implementation Efforts

CSCU Pilot

Goals:

■ Test publishing process

■ Acquaint CSCU institutions with data requirements

■ Create integration with new OHE program database

■ Document best practices

Status:

■ CSCU institution and selected program data collected

■ Data published by July 15, 2021

Next Steps:

■ Establish publishing guidance

■ Socialize initiative with other educational providers, August-October 2021

■ Begin collecting and publishing additional providers' data, October 2021

■ Collection of credential information will be on a phased basis

OHE
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
NEW DATABASE SOLUTION

Academic Affairs
New Database Solution

- The Academic Affairs Division of OHE will be launching a new database system in October 2021. It is based on the Veoci system.

- System will allow for greater ease in:
  - *Submitting applications*
  - *Making changes to school and program information*
  - *Reminders and tracking of deadlines*
  - *Communications and historical changes*
  - *Electronic payments*
  - *API connections*

- System will also be used to facilitate the ease of capture of additional information for the credential registry.

DEMO

Questions for Getting Started

- Does my school store all of the program-level information on offered credentials?

- How is this information collected, updated and made available to stakeholders (e.g. student information or learning management systems, course catalogues, websites, Eligible Training Provider Lists, etc.)

- What existing capacity does my school have to manage credential program data?

- With what strategic initiatives does credential transparency align and how can existing work be leveraged in support of this effort?

Q&A

For More Information

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Credential Finder Search App Prototype:
http://credentialfinder.org