



Midwest Credential Transparency Alliance (MCTA)

August 18, 2022
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. CT



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Agenda

August 18, 2022

All times are listed in Central Time.

2:00 - 2:05 p.m.

Welcome

- Jeff Grann, Solutions Lead, Credential Engine

2:05 - 2:20 p.m.

Career and Technical Education Pathways

Legislation – State Examples

- Sara Appel, Director for Policy Initiatives, Midwestern Higher Education Compact

2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Pathways Action Team Update, RFI Findings and Next Steps

- Jeff Grann, Solutions Lead, Credential Engine

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Reflections on Where We Are Now

Agenda Preview: October 10-11, 2022 In-Person Convening

- Jeff Grann, Solutions Lead, Credential Engine

Progress, Challenges, and Topics Yet to Address in Credential Transparency (Miro/Padlet exercises)

- Jen Briones, Project Manager, Credential Engine

Closing and Next Steps

- Jeff Grann, Solutions Lead, Credential Engine

Presenters



Sara Appel, MHEC

Sara Appel serves as the Associate Director, Policy and Research Initiatives, in this role she manages the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit and the Midwest Student Exchange Program. She has been working with student service members in higher education for over 20 years and has experience in grant writing and program management. Prior to

her working for the Compact, Sara was the academic programs manager at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. She has an undergraduate degree in Secondary Education and a master's degree in history with an emphasis on research. Both degrees are from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.



Jennifer Briones, Credential Engine

Jennifer Briones is the Project Manager for Credential Engine where she manages state and regional scale-up projects, explores expansion opportunities, and supports program and partnership development. Before joining Credential Engine, she was

a Policy and Advocacy Associate at the Data Quality Campaign (DQC)—a nonprofit organization that works to ensure students, parents, educators, and policymakers have the right information to make decisions. Jennifer holds a Bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland in Political Science and Writing and a Master of Public Policy degree from the George Washington University, where she co-founded the Women's Leadership Fellows program.



Jeff Grann, Credential Engine

Jeff Grann is the credential solutions lead for Credential Engine, where he advances systems of trust that incent adult development and empower learners to reach their potential. He currently works with the higher education industry to advance the goal of publishing to the registry, setting standards, improving data integration

and interoperability, and realizing use cases that improve credential decision making. Previously, Jeff worked at Capella University on a synergistic mix of academic and technical projects related to competency-based education. From 2005 to 2018, he defined and led the implementation of Capella University's fully-embedded assessment system and its competency map, and most recently served as Academic Director of Assessment and Learning Analytics. He also has several years of teaching experience with traditional college students, adult learners, and higher education professionals. Jeff holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Minnesota, and works remotely for Credential Engine from White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Additional Team Members



Emilie Rafal, Credential Engine

Emilie Rafal is the director of programs for Credential Engine. In this capacity, she develops and manages state and regional scale-up projects, oversees sector transparency initiatives, and leads special projects. Emilie began her work with this project as a Research Associate for the Credential Transparency Initiative through the

George Washington University Institute of Public Policy, where she worked with credentialing organizations to test the CTDL and prototype search application during its pilot phase. She holds Bachelors degrees from the College of William & Mary in Psychology and Women's Studies and a Master's of Public Policy from the George Washington University, where she served as co-chair of the diversity & inclusion committee..

Organizations

About MHEC

MHEC brings together Midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-sharing opportunities. Through these efforts it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.

MHEC is comprised of member states from the Midwestern United States. MHEC works with and for a variety of stakeholders within and across member states, including higher education system leaders, state policymakers, legislators, and institutional leaders, while always maintaining a focus on students and their success. MHEC is a 501(c)3 entity statutorily-created in each of its member states which include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. MHEC's office is headquartered in Minneapolis.

<https://www.mhec.org>

About Credential Engine

Credential Engine is a non-profit whose mission is mapping the credential landscape with clear and consistent information to fuel the creation of resources that make it easy for people to find the pathways that are best for them.

<https://credentialengine.org>

MCTA Participants

**Denotes Pathways Action Team*

ILLINOIS

Shawn Boyne, University of Illinois Springfield
Mark Burgess, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity*
Joanne Ivory, William Rainey Harper College
Pamela Monaco, City Colleges of Chicago Wilbur Wright College
Emily Ramage, Lake Land College
Michael Rose, Morton College
Michelé Smith, William Rainey Harper College
Natasha Telger, Southern Illinois University*

INDIANA

Dawn Clark, Indiana Commission for Higher Education*
Jake Docking, Independent Colleges of Indiana
April Hay, Indiana State University
Erin Mason, Ball State University
Beth Meguschar, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*
Marilyn Pitzulo, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*
Ken Sauer, Indiana Commission for Higher Education*
Jillian Scholten, Indiana Commission for Higher Education*
Patti Shields, Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana-Valparaiso Campus*
Pam Warner, Indiana Department of Workforce Development*

IOWA

Rachel Boon, Iowa Board of Regents
Todd Brown, Iowa College Aid
Jathan Chicoine, State of Iowa
Kelly Friesleben, Iowa Department of Education*
Olivia Madison, Iowa State University
Michelle McNertney, Iowa Workforce Development
Heidi Nelson, Loras College
Paula Nissen, Iowa Department of Education*

KANSAS

Charmine Chambers, Kansas Board of Regents
Cynthia Farrier, Kansas Board of Regents*
Marti Leisinger, Kansas Board of Regents*
Carolyn McKnight, University of Kansas Edwards Campus
Nathan Snyder, Kansas Board of Regents

MICHIGAN

Chad Arney, Michigan Technological University
Carol Bale, Western Michigan University
Lori Crose, Oakland University
Sarah Dysart, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
David Eisler, Ferris State University*
Ahmad Ezzeddine, Wayne State University*
Darwin Glassford, Kuyper College
Theresa Jacques, Michigan Technological University
Brandy Johnson, Michigan Community College Association

MICHIGAN (CONTINUED)

Simone Jonaitis, Grand Valley State University*
Michael Kelly, Wayne State University*
Brian Knetl, Grand Rapids Community College
Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Oakland University
Tapia Miah, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*
Erica Orians, Michigan Community College Association*
Melissa Peraino, Grand Valley State University
Bill Pink, Ferris State University
Jeni Spaulding, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*
Deedee Stakley, Ferris State University*
Vern Westendorf, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

MINNESOTA

Connie Bernardy, Minnesota House of Representatives
Alison Groebner, Minnesota Private College Council
Sara Leiste, Metropolitan State University
John Meyer, Martin Luther College
Kathleen Misukanis, Rasmussen University-Bloomington*
Jess Niebuhr, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities*
Christen Pentek, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development*
Mary Rothchild, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
Laura Sankovich, Capella University*
Gina Sobania, Minnesota State

MISSOURI

Alicia Erickson, Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development*
Kyle Lackey, University of Missouri - Saint Louis
Rebecca Lobina, Northwest Missouri State University
Kevin Minch, Truman State University*
Brenda Selman, University of Missouri
Jaron Vail, Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development*

NEBRASKA

Mike Baumgartner, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education*
Christine Billings, University of Nebraska at Omaha
John Cavanaugh, Nebraska Legislature
Steven Duke, University of Nebraska System
Kathleen Fimple, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Deborah Frison, Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
Jodi Kupper, Nebraska State College System
April Paschall, University of Nebraska at Omaha

NORTH DAKOTA

Kyle Davison, North Dakota Legislature
Davonne Eldredge, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

MCTA Participants (continued)

**Denotes Pathways Action Team*

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Tracy Korsmo, North Dakota Information Technology*
Mike Paolini, North Dakota State College of Science
Rebecca Ringham, Minot State University*
Steve Snow, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
Alicia Uhde, Bismarck State College*
Sara Vollmer, Bismarck State College

OHIO

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Gary Cates, Ohio Department of Higher Education*
Paula Compton, Ohio Department of Higher Education*
Erica Crawford, Miami University Regionals
Mike Duffey, Ohio Department of Higher Education
Michael Evans, Ohio Association of Community Colleges
Robert Griffiths, Ohio State University
Tara Hudson, Kent State University*
Emily Hughes, Miami University Regionals
Janet Hurn, Miami University Regionals
Heather Jenkins, Franklin University
Wendy Lampner, The University of Akron, Main Campus
Stephanie McCann, Ohio Department of Higher Education*
Ted McKown, Kent State University*
Cheri Rice, Ohio Department of Higher Education*
Kristine Smith, Miami University
Julie Straub, Miami University
Thomas Sudkamp, Ohio Department of Higher Education*
Nikki Wearly, Ohio Department of Higher Education*
Mitch Wilson, Ohio Department of Higher Education

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mike Butts, Lake Area Technical College*
Scott DesLauriers, South Dakota Board of Technical Education*
Carol Grode-Hanks, Mitchell Technical Institute*
Eric Schultz, Lake Area Technical College
Marli Wiese, South Dakota House of Representatives

WISCONSIN

Connie Hutchison, State of Wisconsin Higher Educational
Aids Board
Phyllis King, Vice Provost, University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee
Laura Kite, University of Wisconsin Extended Campus
Nichole LaGrow, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*
Sean Nelson, University of Wisconsin System
Administration
Ben Passmore, University of Wisconsin System
Administration
Laura Pedrick, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*
Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Wisconsin Technical College
System
Karin Smith, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

NATIONAL & REGIONAL

Sarah Ali, Mid-America Regional Council
Connie Beene, Certiport
Sarah Cacicio, Digital Promise
Drew Ceccato, The Markle Foundation*
Karis Chang, Riid Labs
Matthew Christian, CourseLoop
Tara Conrad, National Student Clearinghouse
Valerie Crespín-Trujillo, Ascendium Education Group S
arah Cunningham, American Council on Education
Joanne Duklas, Duklas Cornerstone Consulting Inc.
Matthew Fieldman, MAGNET
Jamie Fitzgerald, CourseLoop
John Frank, Vantage Point
Joshua Gage, Vantage Point
Matt Gee, Brighthouse
Melissa Goldberg, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
Larry Good, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
Josie Goytisolo, CODELLA
Amanda Graor, Mid-America Regional Council
Margo Griffith, Edalex
Nick Hathaway, ELocker*
Naghme Heil, Macmillan
Kathleen Houlihan, Dream2Career, LLC*
Kelly Hoyland, IMS Global Learning Consortium
Sally Johnstone, NCHEMS
Jason Kaasovic, Hydra FPV Automation
Nan Kalke, Higher Education Licensure Pros, LLC
Kathryn Kerensky, Western Interstate Commission for
Higher Education
Sarah Kiley, Parchment
Becky Klein-Collins, CAEL
Dallas Kratzer, Higher Ed Consultant
Radhika Krishnadas, LSU Online and Continuing Education
Natasha Labos, The Myers-Briggs Company
Patrick Lane, Western Interstate Commission for Higher
Education
Jessica Langley, National Healthcareer Association
Emily Lawless, Technology Policy Analyst, US DOT/Volpe
Center
Carolynn Lee, Ascendium Education Group
Sarah Leibrandt, Western Interstate Commission for Higher
Education*
Mark Leuba, IMS Global Learning Consortium
Kimberly Linson, RANDA Solutions
Terence Ma, PlaceNets Consulting
Joshua Marks, Public Consulting Group (PCG)*
Gwen Marsh, XAP Corporation (Partner of ND Dept of CTE)
Kevin Martin, Parchment
Rick Mathieu, PSI Services
Michael McKenzie, Vantage Point
Gloria McMahon, R & A Solutions, Inc.
Sarah Miller, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

MCTA Participants (continued)

**Denotes Pathways Action Team*

NATIONAL & REGIONAL (CONTINUED)

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Amy Morys, CAEL
Greg Nadeau, Public Consulting Group
Samantha Norris, Leepfrog Technologies*
Kent Phillippe, American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)*
Don Phillips, XAP Corporation (partner of ND Department of CTE)
Martin Reed, RANDA Solutions*
Margaret Robertson, Central Carolina Community College
DJ Roth, Mastery Transcript Consortium
Lisa Schut, Networks Northwest
Teresa Sears, CompTIA
Heather Seitz, Bioscience Core Skills Institute
Karen Solomon, Higher Learning Commission*
Dan Tesfay, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation*
Shayla Treadwell, ECS, a segment of ASGN Incorporated
Michelle Van Noy, Rutgers - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Peter Van Tienen, CourseLoop
David Ward, Public Consulting Group (PCG)*
Jason Weaver, Parchment*
Dustin Weeden, SHEEO
Andrew Wermes, STS-Trade-Industry*
Stacy Whitehouse, Advance CTE
Candace Williams, New England Board of Higher Education
Holly Zanville, George Washington Institute of Public Policy
John Zappa, ARM Institute

CREDENTIAL ENGINE

Jen Briones*
Scott Cheney
Deborah Everhart*
Jeff Grann*
Jeanne Kitchens
Devin Peelman
Emilie Rafal

MHEC

Sara Appel*
Katie Chock
Susan Heegaard
Jenny Parks*
Mary Roberson
Deb Kidwell*
Annika Many (consultant)*
Rohit Tandon (consultant)

**Join the conversation on social media using
the official hashtag: #MidwestCTA!**

MHEC: [@mhec12](https://twitter.com/mhec12)

Credential Engine [@credengine](https://twitter.com/credengine)

**The Midwestern Higher Education Compact
and Credential Engine
would like to thank
Ascendium Education Group
for their generous support of the
Midwestern Credential Transparency Alliance.**

Resources

MCTA Pathways Action Team: A Brief

As more Americans pursue multiple types of credentials to advance their careers, they need quality information about career pathways. This new brief provides a model to improve and better support pathways in the Midwest.

[READ THE BRIEF.](#)

MCTA Charter

This document lays out the purpose of the Midwestern Credential Transparency Alliance, and includes information about why it's needed, who it serves, and how it's intended to work.

[DOWNLOAD THE CHARTER.](#)

Credential Transparency: An Essential Part of Attaining State Goals

This brief outlines the actions state policymakers can take to make credential transparency part of their state's education, workforce, and economic development strategies. It showcases the ways credential transparency connects to and augments current state policy priorities; provides examples of specific state policies that support credential transparency; highlights opportunities and actions state leaders can take; and suggests actions and funding streams to support credential transparency.

[READ THE BRIEF.](#)

**Register: bit.ly/2210mcta
MCTA In-person Convening**

**October 10-11, 2022
Big Ten Conference Center
5440 Park Place
Rosemont, IL 60018**

