



Midwest Credential Transparency Alliance (MCTA)

October 10-11, 2022

<https://mhec.eventsair.com/22mctamtg/>



Agenda

Monday, October 10, 2022

All times are listed in Central Time.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81075232446?pwd=NlFDdG9MN2VhYXhzOFdtSUJhVllGdz09>

Meeting ID: 810 7523 2446

Passcode: 527738

1:15 p.m. WELCOME

- Jenny Parks, Vice President, MHEC
- Susan Heegaard, President, MHEC
- Scott Cheney, CEO, Credential Engine
- Carolynn Lee, Program Officer, Ascendium

2:00 p.m. KEYNOTE

Adults Stacking Credentials: Kansas Pathway to Career High School Equivalency

Filling employment gaps is essential for growth in the Midwest. Cultivating talent pipelines that are homegrown, diverse, and sustainable is key to success. The Kansas Pathway to Career High School Equivalency program, an initiative of the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), is designed for adults who have not completed their high school education and who are not currently enrolled in a high school program. Dr. Blake Flanders, KBOR president and CEO, will share more about this pathway that allows a student to work toward their high school completion as well as earn a college certificate and/or an industry recognized credential in a high-demand job. He will also discuss how they aligned state funding with industry credentials at the two-year college level.

- Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Blake Flanders serves as President and CEO for the Kansas Board of Regents.

Before serving in his current position, Dr. Flanders served as the Vice President for Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents and provided executive leadership for the Kansas Postsecondary

Technical Education Authority. In this role, he was the state leader for issues involving the state's postsecondary education and training system, including targeted expansion of engineering and nursing programs. Dr. Flanders also led the state-level evaluation of research proposals within the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

Born in Edson, Kansas, Dr. Flanders is a graduate of Colby Community College and Kansas State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, Master of Science in Animal Science, and Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction. Before serving as Vice President, Dr. Flanders served as the liaison between the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas Department of Commerce (2004-2007), Vice President of Instructional Services at Manhattan Area Technical College (1998-2004), and as a member of the faculty at Butler Community College (1988-1998).

Dr. Flanders has served as a Kansas MHEC commissioner since 2014.

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3:00 p.m.
BREAK

3:15 p.m.
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Career and Technical Education Pathways Policy

This session will explore the comprehensive analysis from MHEC on state policy and legislation in the Midwest for Career and Technical Education pathways. Participants will learn about what types of policies and legislation each state has in place and discuss how to create and advocate for supportive state policy in this area.

- Facilitated by Sara Appel, Director of M-SARA, MHEC, and Annika Many, Principal, edBridge (MHEC consultant)

Technology for Credential Transparency

This session will dig deeper into the responses to the MCTA's Request for Information (RFI) (<https://www.mhec.org/mctarfi220606>) to education technology products pertaining to the credentialing life-cycle. Participants will explore the responses and discuss potential next steps to utilize this information to further discussions on the capabilities and tools that are available now, and that might be available in the future.

- Facilitated by Jeff Grann, Credential Solutions Lead, Credential Engine, and Deb Kidwell, Director of Technology Initiatives, MHEC

4:00 p.m.
BREAK

4:15 p.m.
MINI-GRANT SHOWCASE

In May 2022, MHEC and Credential Engine announced the winners of small grants of up to \$20,000 designed to support progress towards credential transparency goals and serve as examples for other participating states. At this session, participants will get an opportunity to learn more about these projects and the progress they have made, and to see five diverse examples of different approaches to credential transparency from across the Midwest.

- Nathan Snyder, Reporting and Research Specialist, Kansas Board of Regents
- DeeDee Stakely, Director, Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships, Ferris State University
- Sheri Hutchinson, Academic Program Director, and Jess Niebuhr, Senior Manager for Strategic Partnerships, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Erica Crawford, Microcredential Program Manager, Miami University Regionals (OH)
- Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, and Jillian Scholten, Director of Academic Affairs and Talent Credentialing, Indiana Commission for Higher Education
- Rachel Vilsack, Director of State Partnerships, Credential Engine (Moderator)

5:15 p.m.
RECESS

Agenda

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

All times are listed in Central Time.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83068566640?pwd=aUN6dzNOUWYwWlJhR1lxZDRJdnF4QT09>

Meeting ID: 830 6856 6640
Passcode: 598990

8:30 a.m.

WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

- Jenny Parks, Vice President, MHEC

8:45 a.m.

MCTA ROUNDTABLES

In this interactive session, participants will have an opportunity to meet and discuss goals, challenges, supportive use cases, and policy with colleagues from across the Midwest in facilitated roundtable conversations.

- Facilitated by Jen Briones, Project Manager, Credential Engine; and Deb Kidwell, Director of Technology Initiatives, MHEC
- Jenny Parks, Vice President, MHEC (Moderator)

10:15 a.m.

BREAK

10:30 a.m.

GOALS AND FOCI FOR THE NEXT YEAR

In this interactive session, participants will learn more about the results of the regional self-assessment activity, telling the story of progress being made around credential transparency across the Midwest. Participants will then be guided through an ideation session to collaboratively define the goals and objectives for the MCTA and outcomes for credential publishing and use into the future.



Top topics or goals for MCTA for the next year

<https://bit.ly/3MlmsjU>



How should we organize the MCTA?

<https://bit.ly/3rIqXeL>



Ideas for Interstate and Inter-regional collaboration

<https://bit.ly/3CmzPM5>

11:45 a.m.

MEETING WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

- Jenny Parks, Vice President, MHEC

Noon

ADJOURN

MCTA Resources - Additional Information

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.

<https://bit.ly/mcta-pathways-brief>

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.

<https://bit.ly/202110cebrief>

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.

<https://www.mhec.org/mcta-charter>

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>

**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.**

MCTA Convening Attendees (as of 10/5/2022)

ILLINOIS

Natasha Telger, Associate Director, Center for Workforce Development, Southern Illinois University Carbondale*

INDIANA

Kenneth Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Jillian Scholten, Director of Academic Affairs and Talent Credentialing, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Patti Shields, Executive Director, Ivy Tech CCEC Valparaiso

IOWA

Rachel Boon, Chief Academic Officer, Board of Regents, State of Iowa*

Kelly Friesleben, Education Program Consultant - Student Success: Bureau of Community Colleges, Iowa Department of Education*

Olivia Madison, Professor Emerita and Dean Emerita of Library Services, Iowa State University*

Heidi Nelson, Director of Graduate & Continuing Education Programs, Loras College*

KANSAS

Charmine Chambers, Associate Director, Kansas Board of Regents*

Cynthia Farrier, Director of Data, Research and Planning, Kansas Board of Regents*

Blake Flanders, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

Marti Leisinger, Associate Director of Data, Research and Planning, Kansas Board of Regents*

Nathan Snyder, Reporting and Research Specialist, Kansas Board of Regents

MICHIGAN

Rachelle Hilliker, Strategy Manager, Community Mobilization, Michigan College Access Network*

DeeDee Stakley, Director, Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships, Ferris State University

MINNESOTA

Sheri Hutchinson, Academic Program Director, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Jess Niebuhr, Senior Manager for Strategic Partnerships, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

MISSOURI

Nadia Irsheidat, Sr. Academic Advisor, University of Missouri*

Kevin Minch, Associate Provost, Truman State University*

NEBRASKA

Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Jodi Kupper, Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Nebraska State College System

Ana Lopez Shalla, Director, Strategic Partnerships and New Market, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Courtney Wittstruck, Executive Director, Nebraska Community College Association*

NORTH DAKOTA

Representatives unable to attend.

OHIO

Erica Crawford, Microcredential Program Manager, Miami University

Emily Hughes, Microcredential Engagement Specialist, Miami University Regionals

Wendy Lampner, Director of Online, Continuing, and Professional Education, The University of Akron, Main Campus*

Jessi Spencer, Senior Director, OATN Policy, Budget, and Constituent Relations, Ohio Department of Higher Education*

Thomas Sudkamp, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Ohio Department of Higher Education*

SOUTH DAKOTA

Representatives unable to attend.

WISCONSIN

Laura Pedrick, Executive Director UWM Online, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

*Virtual Attendee

MCTA Convening Attendees (as of 10/5/2022)

NATIONAL & REGIONAL

Scott Clouse, Education Services Specialist, United States National Guard (MN)*
Margo Griffith, Head Business Development, Edalex (Tasmania)*
Kathleen Houlihan, CEO & Founder, Dream2Career, LLC (IL)*
Amanda Johannsen, Associate Director, Postsecondary Completion & Adult Learning Initiatives, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (KY)*
Kathryn Kerensky, Director, Digital Learning, Policy & Compliance, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (CO)*
Carolynn Lee, Senior Program Officer, Ascendium Education Group (WI)
Mark Leuba, Vice President, 1EdTech Consortium (MD)*
Amy Morys, CEO & Military Prior Learning Assessment SME Inside-the-Wire, LLC (IL)
Karen Solomon, Vice President and Chief Transformation Officer, Higher Learning Commission (IL)
John Zappa, Senior Product Manager, Arm Institute (IL)*

CREDENTIAL ENGINE

Jen Briones, Project Manager*
Scott Cheney, CEO*
Jeff Grann, Credential Solutions Lead
Jeanne Kitchens, Chief Technology Services Officer*
Rachel Vilsack, Director of State Partnerships

MHEC

Sara Appel, Director of M-SARA
Susan Heegaard, President*
Jenny Parks, Vice President
Deb Kidwell, Director of Technology Initiatives*
Annika Many, Principal, edBridge (consultant)
Rohit Tandon, Principal, edBridge (consultant)

*Virtual Attendee