AACRAO

Meeting the Moment: Transformations in the Digital Credentials Space

February 17, 2021

Housekeeping

Participants will be muted

Post your questions in the Q&A tab. If they are directed at a particular speaker, please use their name.

We will answer questions at about the 45-minute mark

The webinar will be recorded and posted to the AACRAO website

A link to the report is posted in the chat window and on the AACRAO website.

Dog guest speaker appearances may occur unannounced. Thank you for understanding.

Today's Team Members

Dr. Wendy Kilgore

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Moderator and Presenter

Mary Strain

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Analyst/Programmer

San Diego State University

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Presenter

Dr. Cameron McCoy

Vice President and Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives

Lehigh University

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Dr. James Feigert

Registrar

Saddleback College

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Chair

Presenter

The research and webinar are made possible in part by sponsorship from Hyland.

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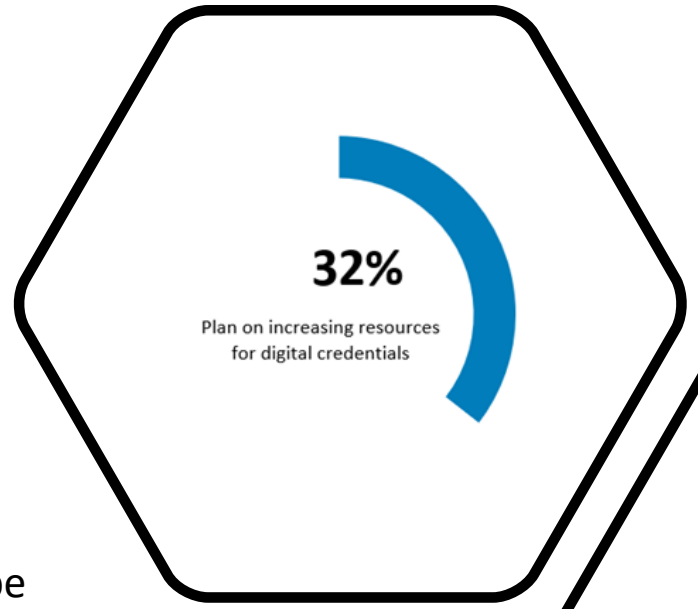
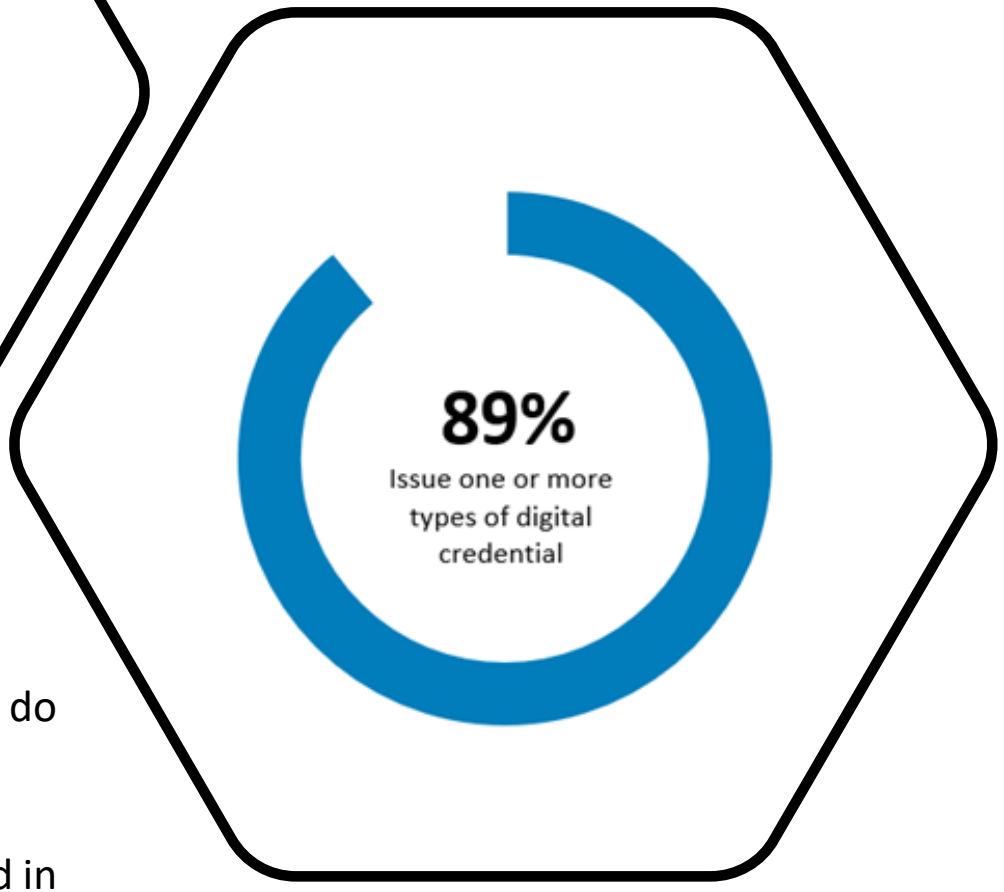
What is a digital credential?

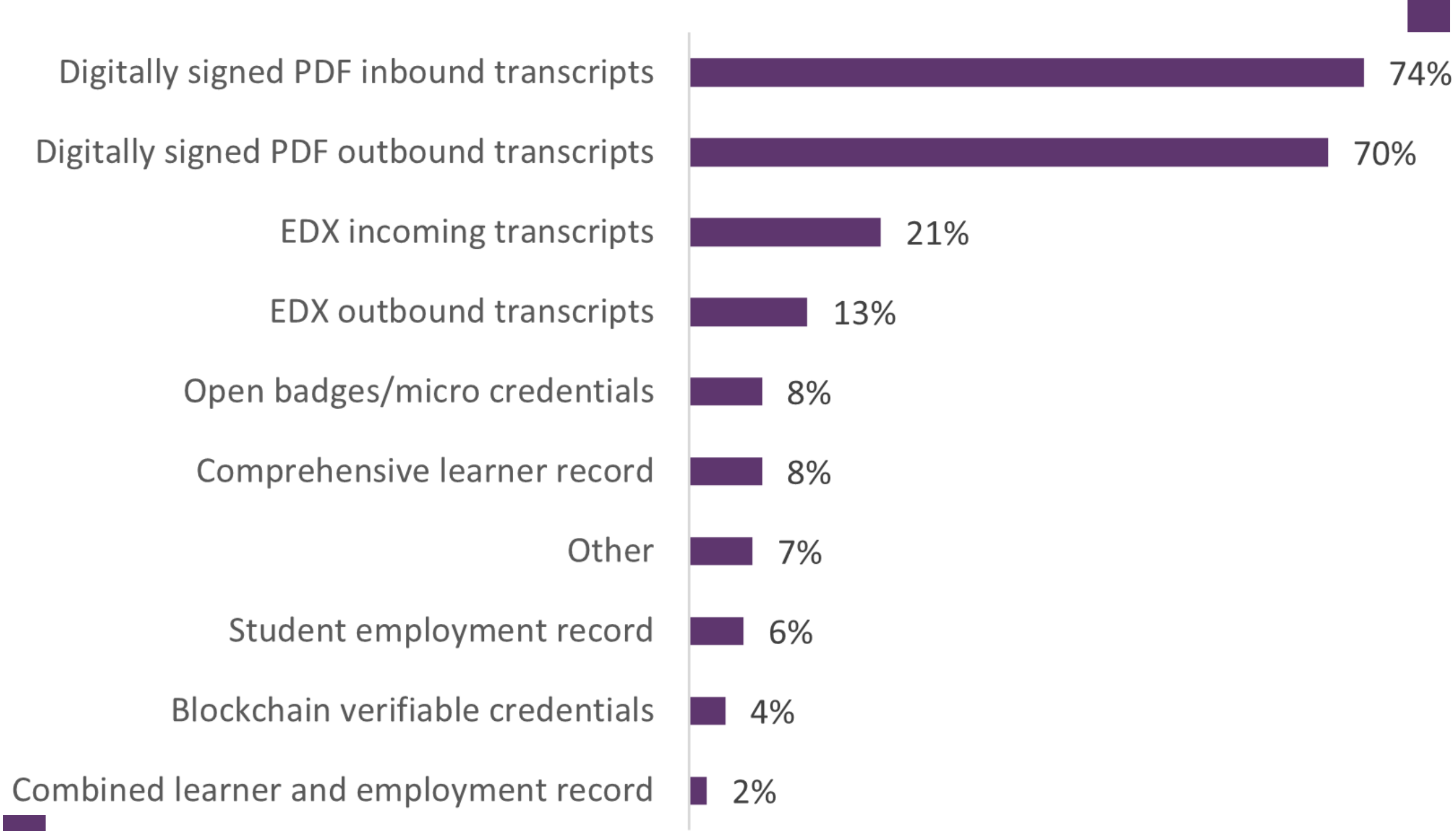
Provides proof of competence, training, qualification, or educational attainment tied to a person

Current State

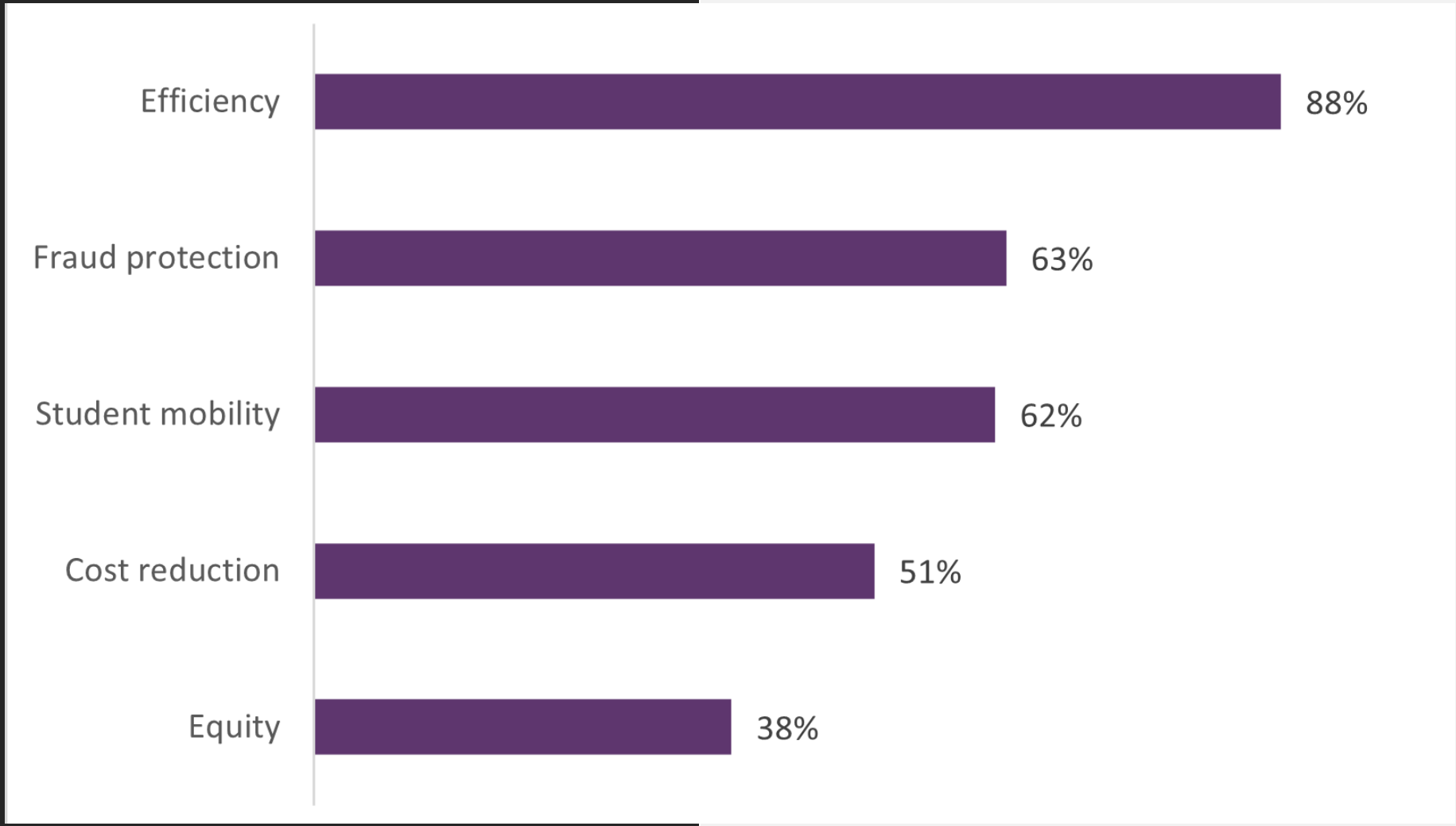




- ✓ PDF digital transcripts dominate the landscape
- ✓ 88% believe that digital credentials support efficiency goals
- ✓ 54% view credential fraud as a concern
- ✓ More than a third view open badges/micro credentials as having great promise for recognizing multiple pathways and accomplishments, but 48% do not consider them part of the official academic record
- ✓ 50% have no familiarity with blockchain technology and how it can be used in higher education


Digitally signed PDF inbound transcripts
74%
Digitally signed PDF outbound transcripts
70%
EDX incoming transcripts
21%
EDX outbound transcripts
13%
Open badges/micro credentials
8%
Comprehensive learner record
8%
Other
7%
Student employment record
6%
Blockchain verifiable credentials
4%
Combined learner and employment record
2%

Goals Supported by Digital Credentials



Conversation with Experts: Use Cases

Sue Reyes

Analyst/Programmer

San Diego State University

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

Electronic Data Exchange (EDX)

Uses

Successes

Challenges

Recommendations

Dr. James Feigert

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Digital PDFs

Uses

Successes

Challenges

Recommendations

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Blockchain

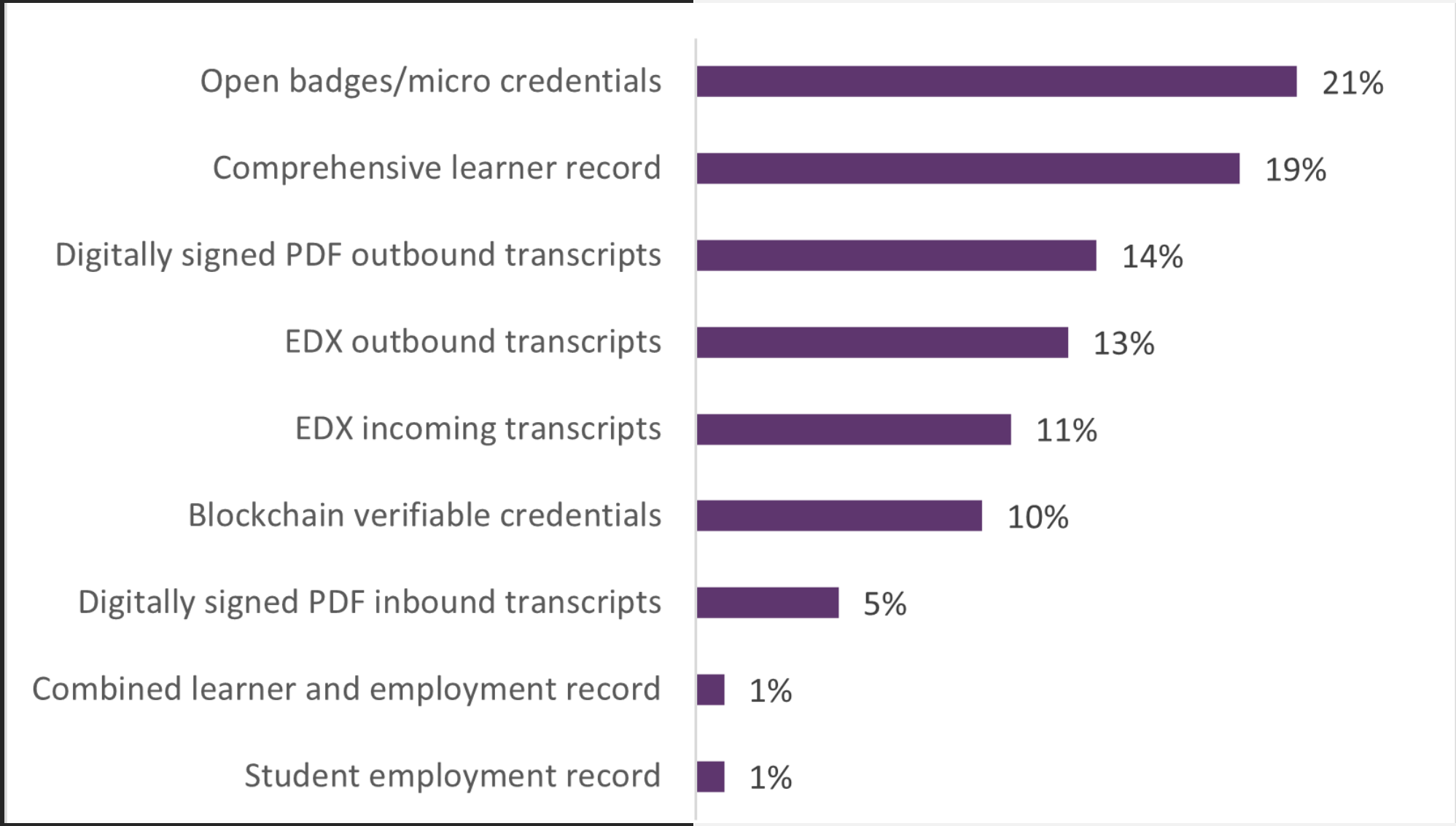
Uses

Successes

Challenges

Recommendations

The Future?


Open badges/micro credentials
21%
Comprehensive learner record
19%
Digitally signed PDF outbound transcripts
14%
EDX outbound transcripts
13%
EDX incoming transcripts
11%
Blockchain verifiable credentials
10%
Digitally signed PDF inbound transcripts
5%
Combined learner and employment record
1%
Student employment record
1%

Learning Gaps

- Understanding of technical architecture
- Understanding of relative data security of solutions
- Understanding of costs to implementation
- Understanding of future state of credential utility beyond graduation

Recommendation

Educate the higher education community around:

- advantages and challenges of the various digital credentialing options
- to clarify technical requirements
- explain the relative security threats
- detail the requirements for implementation and operationalization

Goals

- Supports advancing the interoperable learning records ecosystem
- Increases the efficiency of digital credential processing
- Increases the efficiency of the transcript inbound proce to take full advantage of available automated transfer articulation processes
- Increases the portability of institutional credentia

Goals

The solution (or solutions) is equitable and the digital credentials are verifiable and secure

Enables delivery of digital credentials efficiently and securely to all stakeholders

Provide more than one option for students to access their digital credentials

Thoughts on the Future State

Resources

- White Paper on Interoperable Learning Records – American Workforce Policy Advisory Board
- U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Technology – Blockchain in Education
- U.S. Department of Education – Data Transfer and the Larger Education Ecosystem
- Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC)
- AACRAO Electronic Records and Data Exchange resources
- IMS Global Learning Consortium – Comprehensive Learner Record standard
- SPEEDE server resources
- EDUCAUSE – Blockchain
- EDUCAUSE/Hyland – Defending the Value of Higher Education: Industry Insights

Q&A

Thank You!

Dr. Wendy Kilgore

Director of Research

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