Meeting the Moment: Transformations in the Digital Credentials Space
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.

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.

We will answer questions at about the 45-minute mark

Dog guest speaker appearances may occur unannounced. Thank you for understanding.
Today’s Team Members

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The research and webinar are made possible in part by sponsorship from Hyland.
What is a digital credential?

Provides proof of competence, training, qualification, or educational attainment tied to a person.
PDF's are not technically a digital credential. We have included them in this discussion because of the prevalence of use and perception that they are digital simply because they may be transmitted electronically.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Transcript</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digitally signed PDF inbound transcripts</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitally signed PDF outbound transcripts</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDX incoming transcripts</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDX outbound transcripts</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open badges/micro credentials</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive learner record</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student employment record</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blockchain verifiable credentials</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined learner and employment record</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goals Supported by Digital Credentials

- Efficiency: 88%
- Fraud protection: 63%
- Student mobility: 62%
- Cost reduction: 51%
- Equity: 38%
Conversation with Experts: Use Cases
Electronic Data Exchange (EDX)

Uses

Successes

Challenges

Recommendations
Digital PDFs

Uses

Successes

Challenges

Recommendations
Blockchain

Uses

Successes

Challenges

Recommendations

Dr. Cameron McCoy
Vice President and Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives
Lehigh University
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 process to take full advantage of available automated transfer articulation processes
- Increases the portability of institutional credentials
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!

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