Midwest Credential Transparency Alliance (MCTA)

November 18, 2021
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CT

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Thursday, November 18, 2021
All times are listed in Central Time.

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Emerging Career Pathways Across the Midwest:
A Panel Discussion

Panelists:
- Megan Andrew, Full Social/Behavioral Scientist, RAND Corporation and Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Notre Dame
- Tabitha Colter, Director of Operations, Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
- Rodney J. Petersen, Director of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Moderator:
- Emilie Rafal, Director of Programs, Credential Engine

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Pathways Action Team Update
- Jeff Grann, Solutions Lead, Credential Enginee

3:00 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.
Breakout Sessions: Supportive State Policy for Pathways

3:20 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Report Out and Next Steps

Presenters

Megan Andrew, RAND Corporation and Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Notre Dame
Megan Andrew is a Full Behavioral/Social Scientist at the RAND Corporation, a non-profit think tank. Dr. Andrew specializes in education and workforce development issues, including advanced manufacturing. Her recent work in that area includes a landscape analysis of advanced manufacturing training programs at the sub-baccalaureate level and the barriers and facilitators to student and worker training in advanced manufacturing overall. This work has been funded the National Science Foundation and other public agencies.

Tabitha Colter, Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE)
Tabitha Colter is Director of Operations at Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE). In addition to internal organization management, Tabitha also oversees many of PAVE's outreach efforts including demonstration events, website development, new member recruitment, educational workshops and two advisory councils. Prior to joining PAVE, Tabitha attended Duke University as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow where she focused on autonomous vehicle research and received her Master's in Bioethics & Science Policy. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics and Philosophy from Furman University.

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.

Rodney J. Petersen, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Rodney Petersen is the director of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the U.S. Department of Commerce. He previously served as the Managing Director of the EDUCAUSE Washington Office and a Senior Government Relations Officer. He founded and directed the EDUCAUSE Cybersecurity Initiative and was the lead staff liaison for the Higher Education Information Security Council. Prior to joining EDUCAUSE, he worked at two different times for the University of Maryland - first as Campus Compliance Officer in the Office of the President and later as the Director of IT Policy and Planning in the Office of the Vice President and Chief Information Officer. He also completed one year of federal service as an Instructor in the Academy for Community Service for AmeriCorps' National Civilian Community Corps. He is the co-editor of a book entitled "Computer and Network Security in Higher Education". He received his law degree from Wake Forest University and bachelors degrees in political science and business administration from Alma College. He was awarded a certificate as an Advanced Graduate Specialist in Education Policy, Planning, and Administration from the University of Maryland.

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.

Extended MHEC and Credential Engine Team

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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**Join the conversation on social media using
the official hashtag: #MidwestCTA!
MHEC: @mhec12
Credential Engine @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.**