

Mini-Grant Recipients

Ferris State University (Michigan)

This project extends the work of MCTA by developing an inventory of existing graduate credentials/pathways, adding those to the Registry, and making this information available to students throughout the Midwest. During the grant period Ferris State University upload existing graduate credentials/pathways, support and encourage academic departments to create additional graduate credentials/pathways, and create a marketing campaign to share information about credential transparency. This project will be replicable and can be shared with others interested in a similar project and supports socioeconomic mobility for under-served and under-represented individuals by making information available about graduate-level opportunities that may otherwise be difficult to find.

Kansas Board of Regents

The Board of Regents proposes the use of grant funding to support progress toward its credential transparency goals of publishing program pathways, systemwide transfer courses, military transfer credit and accelerated program opportunities to provide prospective students and their parents with informed choices about educational programs in Kansas. This work will directly assist adults without postsecondary credentials, active members of the military and veterans, first-generation students, and low-income secondary students. The work will also serve as a proof point to other states as others explore low maintenance and sustainable solutions such that Kansas has experienced with the API method for publishing and will represent the first state publishing transfer information widely.

Indiana Commission for Higher Education

While every public two- and four-year institution in Indiana has published to the Credential Registry, only two out of 29 independent institutions – Indiana Wesleyan University and the University of Saint Francis – have participated. This grant would be used for renewed outreach to the other 27 independent institutions and to support the publishing of data about as many of these colleges as possible, along with the maximum amount of information about the certificates and degree programs they offer. Outreach Coordinators across Indiana will be trained to use the Commission's School Finder tool, which will point to the Indiana Credential Registry as the source of information on education programs and institutions. By adding more independent institutions to the Registry, including the independent minority-serving institutions, as well as those independent institutions with specific initiatives geared to reach underserved populations, ICHE will be better positioned to achieve its equity goals.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Minnesota State is applying for funding with the support and endorsement of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE). As partner agencies, they have collaborated to improve credential transparency across Minnesota and their education and workforce system. Minnesota State proposes the following goals for the MCTA Mini-Grant award: 1) Review program inventory criteria within Minnesota State's program repository/inventory (Program Navigator); 2) Survey colleges and universities and identify an improved process for collecting learner pathway information; 3) Expand responsibility and reporting capability of credentials (credit and non-credit) to the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) by employing technical solutions, identifying efficiencies and coordinating staff responsibilities; and 4) Identify improved opportunities for data collection, including identifying solutions to upgrade or convert from program navigators to a more nimble and automated system. Learnings from this work can be shared across the region to help other states improve pathway transparency and navigation.

Miami University Regionals (Ohio)

The Microcredential Initiative at Miami University Regionals (MUR) is an innovative program that aims to reduce or remove the typical barriers to higher education, particularly for historically excluded populations, such as funding limitations, schedule demands, and length of credential programs. Microcredentials at MUR are geared toward non-traditional students. By offering short-term, big-impact programs in high-demand fields, Microcredentials can help a student dip their toe into higher education to determine the possibilities. With the plethora of student support services available at MUR, this introductory experience can help students not only to navigate through collegiate experiences but also to see themselves succeeding in college, whether that be at one of Miami's many different learning options or elsewhere. This project will seek to both put the Microcredentials into the Registry and to identify transfer possibilities for Microcredential students across the region.