

MCTA Meeting Summary - May 2021

State priorities

Participants shared 35 responses to the question, “What educational and workforce issues do you expect to be prioritized in your state? (Over the next two years)”, each of which were also endorsed by the group to varying degrees. The following lists the top 5 endorsed priorities:

1. Aligning credentials to college credit (17)
2. Improved transfer pathways (15)
3. Equity and access among career pathways (12)
4. Development of short term, high skills training programs that lead to industry recognized credentials (12)
5. Competency-based education (10)

To review all the responses, see <https://padlet.com/jenbriones/jzc7qupt1eqdo4fl>

Breakout topic summaries and linked notes

- [Coordinated publishing workflows](#)
 - Network - Share successful publishing models for licenses, eligible training provider list (ETPL), competencies, outcomes, and more. Need for better system integrations.
 - Resource - Guidance to the region to ensure information is consistent
 - Action team - Potential to define a regional minimum data recommendations. Explore licensing reciprocity across state lines. Systems/services around gathering and documenting competencies. Want to be able to answer questions like: “*What do I need to have to teach in your state?*”
 - Dissemination - Compare credentials in Credential Registry across states in region - identify where things aren’t standardized, what data gaps there are, etc.
- [Career pathways, Transfer value & Prior Learning Assessment \(PLA \)](#)
 - Network - Shared understanding and application of Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) to articulate “transfer value”. Compare prior learning assessment (PLA) & credit for prior learning (CPL) determinations for reuse. Share successes. Standardized way to describe pathways for specific industry credentials. Policy sharing and advocacy.
 - Resource - Using credential transparency description language (CTDL) in metadata of digital credential to provide evidence/definition/verification of the credential linked to a competency framework. Faculty assessment of credentials/credit/competencies
 - Action team - Analytics connecting in-demand skills with specific credentials and creating an education/training to work pathway. Connect analytics with career exploration software for personalized guidance. Military learning credit award marketplace showing what academic credit is being awarded by institutions for military learning achievements.
 - Dissemination - Sharing what works in states for transfer and PLA. Identify common components for regional guidance.

- [Using Microcredentials for Equitable Mobility](#)
 - Network - Figure out alignment of different pieces. Shared practice and ideas across the states. Interstate mobility
 - Resource - Defining microcredentials to help connect industry and faculty at institutions.
 - Action team - Equity-focused minimum data policy for microcredentials, pathways, transfer value, quality, and more. Application design principles. Small pilot project focused on specific industry certifications that should result in credit.
 - Dissemination - Opportunity to engage with accreditors, employers, and policy makers.

- [Digital Records, Credentials & Employers](#)
 - Network - Strong national group and some exciting work in multiple states. Discuss exchange of records across state lines.
 - Resource - Institutional guidance on issuing and consuming digital records.
 - Action team - Wrestling with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) survey results about competencies low and career goals high. Potential role of foundational competency frameworks in the Midwest, like Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) VALUE (Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education) rubrics. Great opportunities in cybersecurity with National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) framework and pathways. Data exchanges are key.
 - Dissemination - Need to raise awareness especially with consumers & employers. Highlight early examples of successful pilots and implementation.

- [Career exploration/end user tools](#)
 - Network - Share best practices, open lines of communication to ask questions, get examples of end user tools, and continued engagement.
 - Resource - Messaging: how to get people comfortable with tools? How to help people familiarize/identify tools as a resource before they need to?
 - Action team - Pave the road to develop robust tools that help along the education/training to work continuum (what is the key data to make this possible? Where are people finding it? What auxiliary support information are others using?)
 - Dissemination - Highlight examples of cross-agency coordination on credential transparency for quality user experience design across all credentialing options.

For questions or comments contact mcta@mhec.org.
 More information available at <https://www.mhec.org/mcta>.