



Credential As You Go Summit: Higher Education Quality Assurance and Incremental Credentialing

February 1, 2023

1:00-2:30 PM EDT

Remote event / Zoom

The Summit will explore accreditation and quality assurance questions arising in the Credential As You Go initiative. A Roundtable representing institutional accreditation, specialized accreditation, and state systems of higher education / institutions participating in major incremental credentialing efforts will engage in discussion, and answer questions in two main categories:

- The ways accrediting bodies are/can support incremental credentials,
- What higher education institutions and state systems of higher education are doing in the space of incremental credentials to ensure quality and address accreditation requirements.

An open forum will follow the Roundtable to enable audience participation and expand the discussion.

1:00 p.m. **Setting the Stage** – Holly Zanville, Credential As You Go

1:05 p.m. **Roundtable** – *Moderated by Barbara Gellman-Danley, President, Higher Learning Commission (HLC)*

- ❖ **Institutional Accreditor:** *Belle Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)*
- ❖ **Specialized accreditor:** *Angela Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer, Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIM)*
- ❖ **States/institutions:** *Deb Moeckel, Assistant Provost for Assessment and Community College Education at State University of New York (SUNY)*
- ❖ **States/institutions:** *Kim Poast, Chief Student Success & Academic Affairs Officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)*

Approaches underway now

1. How ready are accreditors (institutional and specialized) for an incremental credentialing system?
2. What does an accreditation review look like for incremental credential changes? When an institution says, 'We're starting to integrate non-credit, badges or other short-term credentials into our regular program,' how does an accreditor guide them? Are higher education institutions asking these questions?

3. Why do so many think that accreditation standards do not permit innovation of the sort that Credential As You Go is proposing?
4. How are higher education institutions moving through quality assurance guides and accreditation to develop and implement new incremental credentials?
5. Are accreditors getting involved in questions around ways to verify learning and change the college transcript to reflect different kinds of credentials?

What's Coming?

6. How fast are you seeing major changes occur in credentialing?
7. Do accreditors have a role with companies that award credentials?
8. Do accreditors have a role in helping institutions understand the power of an incremental credentialing system?
9. As more competency-based programs develop (e.g., in nursing, cybersecurity), will quality assurance guides and accreditation requirements look different for those programs vs. traditional ones?
10. How could changes in federal financial aid policy, with more assistance potentially for short-term credentials, impact quality assurance and blur the lines between traditional degrees and other credentials?
11. What quality assurance issues need to be talked about? Where do you see the direction going?

2:05 p.m. Open Forum with Audience

2:30 p.m. Adjourn

Background: In Fall 2021, the US Department of Education's IES *Transformative Research in the Education Sciences* program awarded a 3-year grant to CAYG (to SUNY Empire State) to engage in rapid prototyping of the *Incremental Credential Framework* developed in a Lumina Foundation-supported planning effort. The Phase 2 work is enabling four key components: 1) rapid prototyping trials of incremental credentials in New York, Colorado, and North Carolina; (2) national campaign to message the need for a redesigned postsecondary system; 3) research to determine whether key metrics/outcomes are being met in the three states; and 4) building a digital "wiki-model" Learn & Work Ecosystem Library of information resources to support this initiative plus the many other efforts working to strengthen the learn-and-work ecosystem. A Phase 3 effort focused on systems change and expansion and sustainability of Credential As You Go is supported by Walmart.