



PATHWAYS TO CREDENTIALS

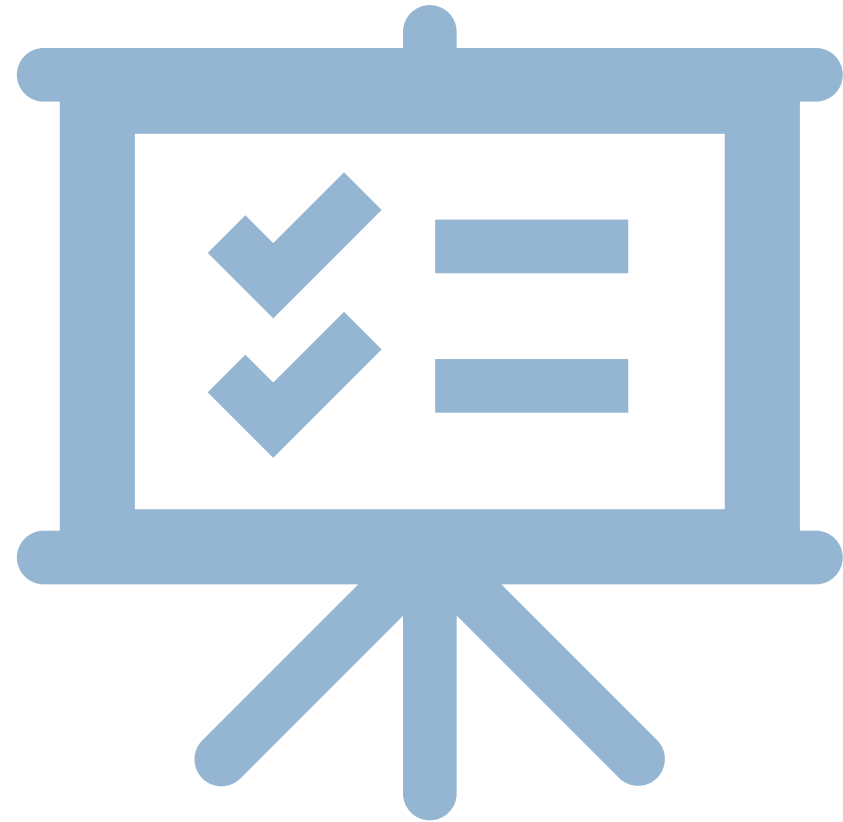
Technical Assistance Opportunity

March 5, 2020

Today's Webinar

You'll learn about:

- ▶ TA activities planned by the *Pathways to Credentials* initiative
- ▶ Benefits to participating colleges
- ▶ Expectations of colleges
- ▶ Application process





Welcome

Casey Sacks

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Community Colleges*

Office of Career, Technical, and Adult
Education (OCTAE)

U.S. Department of Education



*An initiative of the U.S. Department of Education
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
Division of Academic and Technical Education*

Purpose:

Designed to assist community and technical colleges in their efforts to embed stackable, industry-recognized credentials within technical associate degree programs

Characteristics of Stackable Credentials

- ▶ Developed through active employer engagement
- ▶ Responsive to labor market/talent development needs of region
- ▶ Link educational certificates to industry certifications
- ▶ Support diverse groups of learners
- ▶ Provide multiple entry and exit points
- ▶ Support earn-and-learn models through flexible scheduling
- ▶ Provide credentials with labor market value on the path to a degree

Manufacturing Technology



*Four of these courses prepare students to sit for industry recognized MSSC certification exams. <http://www.msscusa.org/>

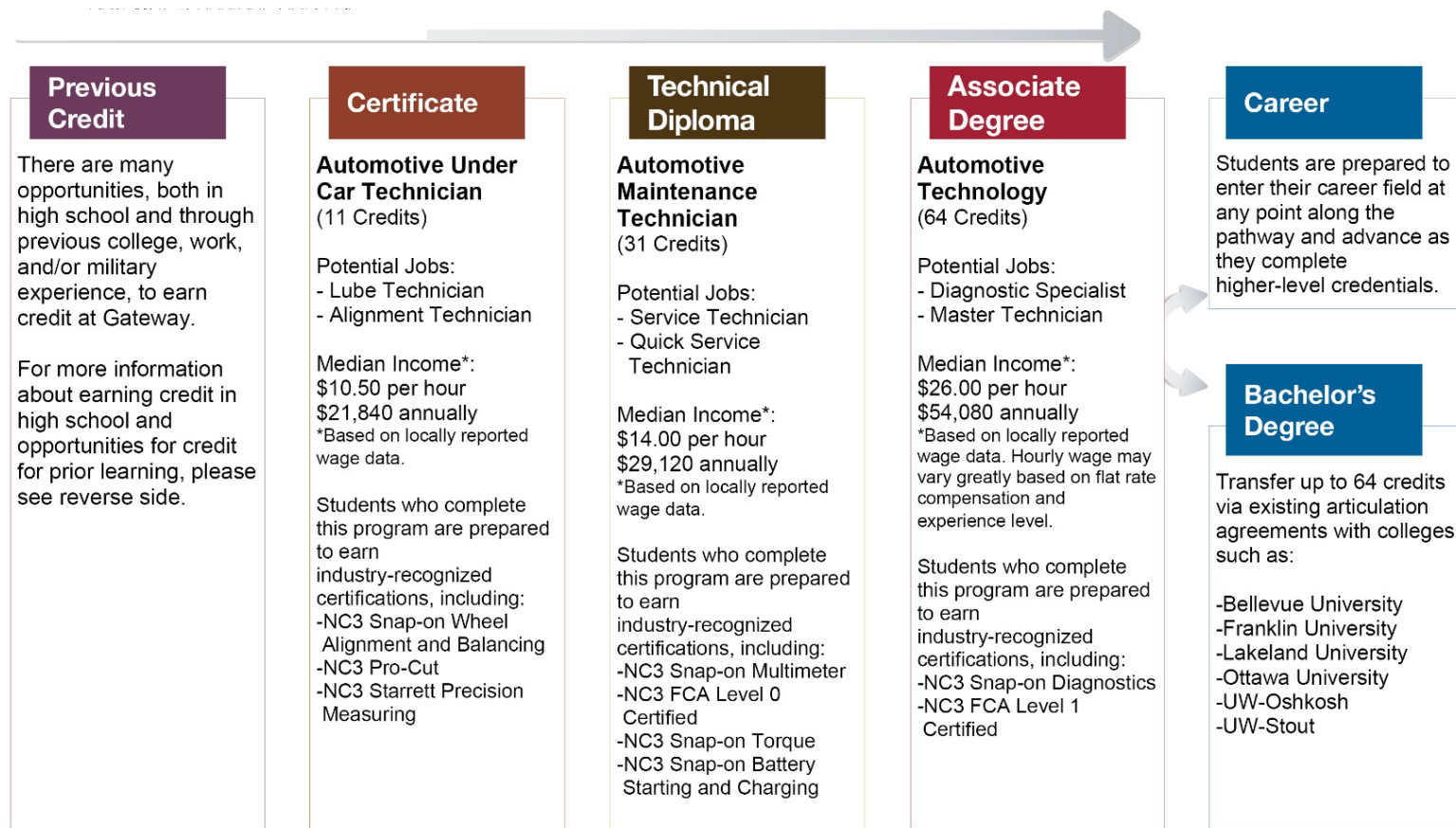
**Prepares students for NIMS Certifications <https://www.nims-skills.org/web/nims/home>

***Prepares students for American Welding Society SENSE certifications. <http://www.aws.org/education/sense/>



Manufacturing Technology Stackable Credentials

Automotive Technology Career Pathway Map



Salary and employment data courtesy of EMSI.

Project Activities Supporting Community and Technical Colleges

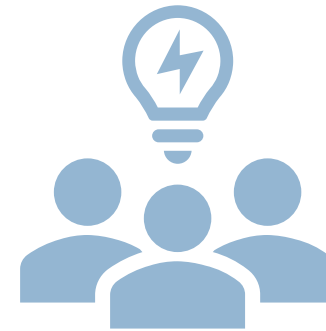
- ▶ Stackable Credentials Tool Kit
- ▶ Professional development tutorials and webinars
- ▶ Information exchange on promising practices and resources
- ▶ Customized technical assistance to help colleges advance efforts in stackable credential design based on local needs

What is Technical Assistance?

Providing targeted support to address a need or problem

Potential TA activities:

- ▶ Provide one-on-one or team consultation
- ▶ Conduct needs assessments
- ▶ Assist with plan development
- ▶ Deliver professional development
- ▶ Identify and develop resources
- ▶ Share information and expertise



Technical Assistance Delivery



April 2020 - July 2021



Customized TA for a cohort of up to 10 colleges



Assessments, goal setting and action planning
tailored to local/regional needs



Advance efforts in embedding stackable credentials
and industry certifications in associate degree programs



Supported by experienced
TA coaches from:

Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD)
Social Policy Research Associates (SPR)

Benefits for Participating Colleges

- ▶ Technical Assistance Institute, May 28-29, 2020 to learn from leader colleges and national experts
- ▶ Monthly coaching from dedicated TA coach
- ▶ Targeted assistance from additional subject matter experts to support local needs
- ▶ Webinars and peer learning community to share resources and promising practices
- ▶ Curated collection of tool kits and tutorials to support professional development needs of cohort colleges

Key Areas of Focus

1. Employer Engagement
2. Industry-aligned Stackable Credentials/
Career Pathways Program Design
3. Non-credit to Credit Integration

Expectations of Colleges

- ▶ Identify in-demand industry sector on which to focus initial work.
- ▶ Designate team of *at least* three individuals that will participate consistently in TA throughout the project.
- ▶ Participate as a team in Technical Assistance Institute, May 28-29, 2020, at Harper College (Suburban Chicago)
- ▶ Meet monthly with TA coach.
- ▶ Participate in site visit from TA coach or subject matter expert.
- ▶ Document lessons learned and be featured in project publications.

College Steps for Success

In partnership with TA coach:

- ▶ Complete a program and/or institutional needs assessment
- ▶ Develop an action plan
- ▶ Assign and support team members to execute the plan
- ▶ Collaborate to remove barriers to plan attainment



Example Plan Activities

- ▶ Creating a new sequence of certificates that stack to an associate degree
- ▶ Aligning program exit points with industry certifications
- ▶ Instituting new policies or practices that facilitate credit for prior learning and non-credit/credit integration
- ▶ Enhancing how local employers are engaged in technical programs, including program design, work-based learning partnerships, mentoring, and student recruitment
- ▶ Engaging employers to validate program competencies and identify credentials of value

Example Work of Previous TA Cohort

- ▶ Development of a statewide model curriculum that includes two embedded industry certifications as a result of faculty collaboration with a state industry association.
- ▶ Transformation of an advanced manufacturing advisory committee to a Business Industry Leadership Team that co-leads program activities and student recruitment.
- ▶ Adoption of a “one college” approach serving instructors and students across a sector to support non-credit/credit integration.

Eligible Institutions

- ▶ All applicants must be Perkins eligible institutions of higher education and fit the definition in Part 19 of Perkins V:
- ▶ **“(19) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.”**
 - ▶ **“(v) An institution of higher education whose most common degree awarded is an associate degree”**

Application Next Steps

- ▶ TA cohort application available from PCRN:
cte.ed.gov > National Initiatives > Credentials
- ▶ All required components contained within application
- ▶ Complete your application and submit by April 2, 2020
- ▶ Up to 10 cohort colleges will be selected
- ▶ Notification of cohort: April 10
- ▶ ***Save the Date!***
Pathways to Credentials TA Institute
May 28-29, 2020
Harper College (Suburban Chicago)



Learn More

To learn more about the project's TA activities and application process, contact:

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