SkillStack® 101

2/22/2024

skillstack.idaho.gov

SkillStack® Team

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Teamwork

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# Presentation Overview

- Intended audience:
  - Secondary teachers who are teaching a CTE capstone course... and those interested or curious about SkillStack®.

- Webinar info:
  - Attendees automatically default to listen/view mode.
  - Presentation is being recorded and will be on the SkillStack® YouTube channel.
  - If you have technical issues, please share in chat.
  - For questions:
    - Use the Q&A option to submit your questions.
    - Or raise your hand and we will give audio/video access.
  - We will answer questions at the end of the presentation.

Presentation Resources

https://padlet.com/SkillStack/101

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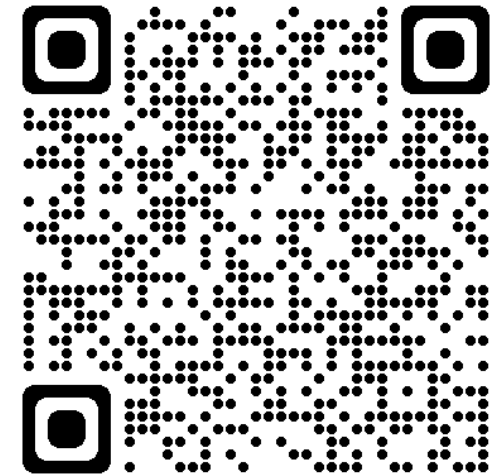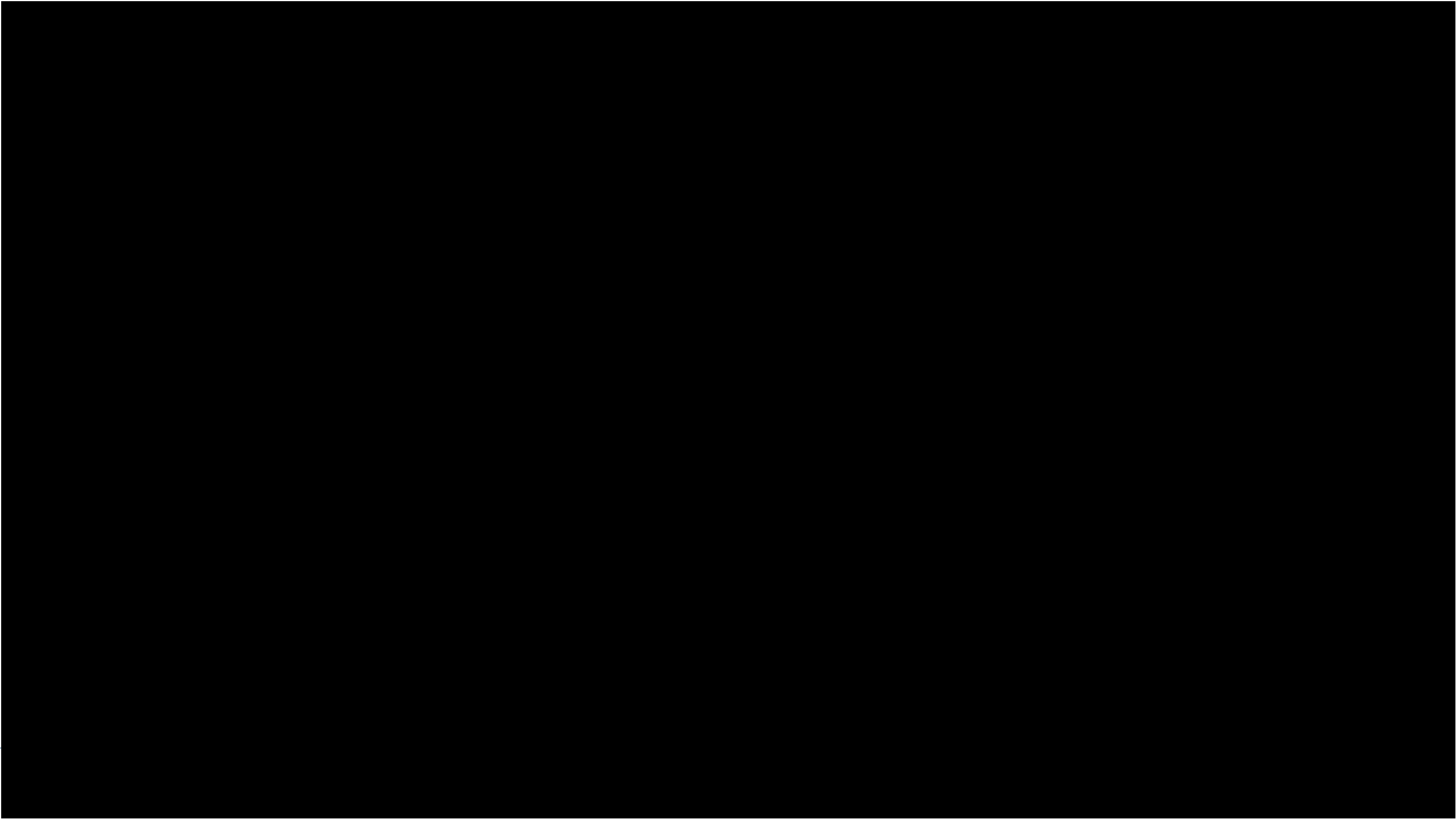Division of Career
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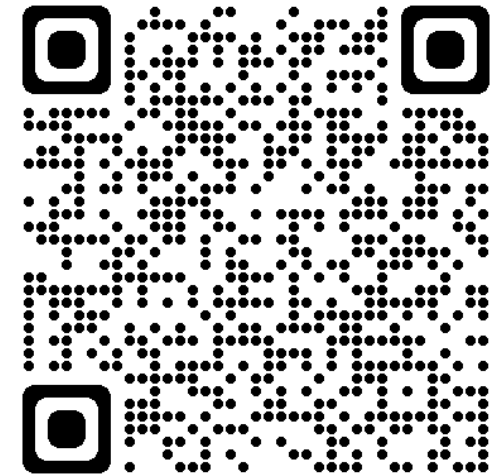
Objectives

1. Overview
2. Background and policy
3. What's the difference?
   Microcredential, Digital Badge, Stacked Badge
4. Getting started
5. Awarding skills – issuing badges
6. Introducing SkillStack® to learners
7. Tracking progress and sharing badges
8. Demonstration of SkillStack®
9. Submitted questions
10. What comes next?
11. Open Q& A

Presentation Resources

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What is SkillStack®?

ISBE Policy Microcredentials Definition

Blueprint Reading for Welders

Demonstrate ability to read and interpret blueprints

TCC - Blueprint Reading for Welders

TCC - Blueprint Reading for Welders Required Skills

Earn "Blueprint Reading for Welders" Badge

Earn "Technical Skills Assessment (TSA) - Welding" Badge

- Successfully complete postsecondary assessment

Idaho State Board of Education Policy III. E. 1. a.

- **MICROCREDENTIALS:**
  - Credentials awarded for mastery of defined skills or concepts, including career technical and academic skills.
  - Microcredentials reflect skills, knowledge, and abilities gained in increments and measured by identified outcomes that are equal to or less than a single course of study but may also build upon or complement each other, resulting in a stacked microcredential.
  - Microcredentials are most often distributed as digital badges.
  - All microcredentials shall be tracked as digital badges through a platform approved and maintained by IDCTE.

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What's the difference?

Microcredential (Microcertification)	Digital Badge	Stacked Microcredential
Non-credit bearing credentials awarded for mastery of defined skills or concepts, including career technical, academic, and/or industry-relevant skills. Shorter than traditional degrees/certificates. Measures skills not "seat time".	A visual representation of a microcredential or stacked microcredential. Digital badges are artifacts, much like a diploma, of the skill mastered.	A set of organized microcredentials after learners meet specific outcomes. Completing stacked microcredentials may result in credit through institutions prior learning assessment policies.

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Why SkillStack® Background and policy

SkillStack® Background

- Funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

- Platform specifically developed for Idaho needs.

- Statewide approach for consistency.

- Ongoing yearly allocation for system enhancements.

- Platform is Open Badge 2.0 certified
  - 1 of 43 certified worldwide

Benefits of digital badges

![1EDTECH CERTIFIED logo]

Since 2020, SkillStack® meets global certification standards for Open Badges 2.0.

What is an Open Badge?
"Open Badges is the world's leading format for digital badges. Open Badges is not a specific platform, but a type of digital badge that is verifiable, portable, and packed with information about skills and achievements."

VERIFIABLE
Prospective employers or academic institutions can identify who issued the badge, when and where it was earned, and what criteria were used to earn it.

STACKABLE
A set of organized microcredentials can be stacked to symbolize progressive levels of proficiency, complexity, and achievement.
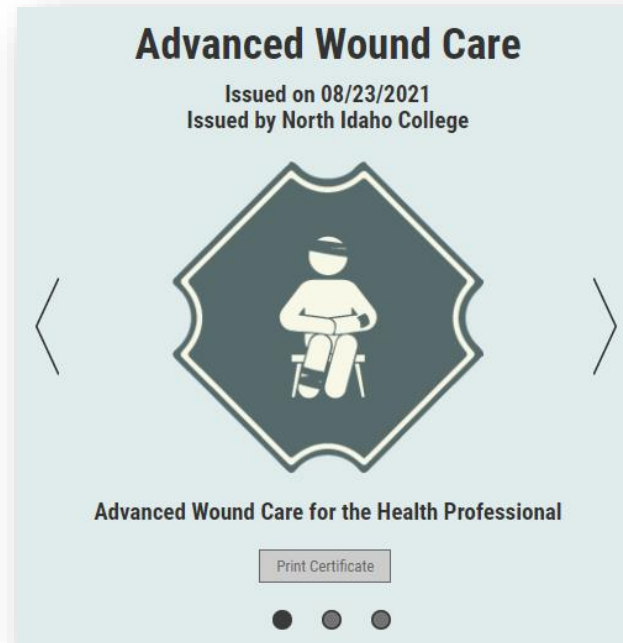
PORTABLE
Individuals can access their badges indefinitely and share them via social media or embedded in a resume, for prospective or current employers or academic institutions.

Metadata embedded in SkillStack® Badges

Open Badges are:

- Data rich
- Verifiable
- Portable
- Stackable
- Sharable

Advanced Wound Care

Issued on 08/23/2021
Issued by North Idaho College

Advanced Wound Care for the Health Professional

Print Certificate

Alignment	Framework a badge has been assessed against
Badge Criteria	Skills completed to earn the badge
Badge Description	Description of the badge
Badge Name	Name of the badge
Evidence URL	Badge earner's unique evidence (optional)
Expiration Date	Whether the badge has expired
Issue Date	When the badge was issued (or revoked)
Issuer	Details about the organization issuing the badge
Recipient	A verifiable reference to the recipient
Tags	Searchable tags
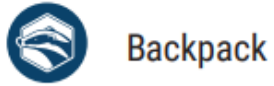
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Sharing SkillStack® Badges

- Download or export a SkillStack® badge(s)
- Add badge(s) to resume
- Share badge(s) in many ways:
  - Social media
  - Link
  - HTML
  - Certificate

SkillStack® badges issued (n=116,386)
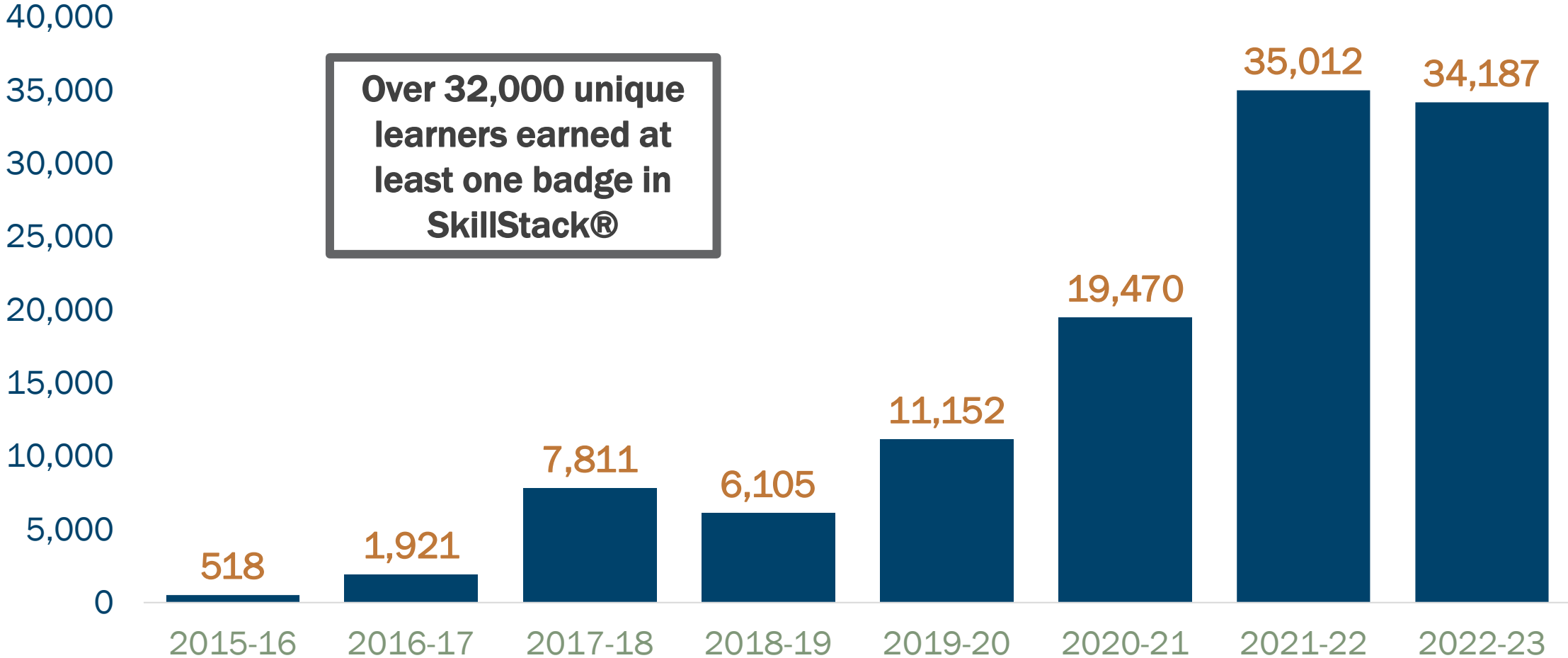
Over 32,000 unique learners earned at least one badge in SkillStack®

Year	Badges
2015-16	518
2016-17	1,921
2017-18	7,811
2018-19	6,105
2019-20	11,152
2020-21	19,470
2021-22	35,012
2022-23	34,187

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Idaho educators are using SkillStack® to:

- Measure, assess, validate, and track student growth
- Encourage students to become lifelong learners
- Improve program delivery and quality
- Enhance industry certifications

Examples of a current SkillStack® uses:

Idaho State University
- Law Enf. stacked badges --> Basic Tech Cert. 8-12 credits

Idaho Department of Correction
- Re-entry skills - Skill Stack - IDOC

Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections
- Youth career exploration

Postsecondary Institutions
- Badges that stack to certificate/degree pathways

IDCTE First Steps
- CTE Teacher prep stacked badges being awarded credit

Secondary (High School) CTE Pathways
- Credit articulation and assessment validation

Workforce Training Centers
- Wage progression and local industry needs

Boise State University
- Employee professional development

Getting started with SkillStack®

Who?

- Secondary **capstone teachers** in aligned, IDCTE approved programs
  - Future = all pathway instructors
- Other educational entities (ex. IDOC, Postsecondary, Workforce Training)
  - Request to create badges or gain access to existing badges

Then what?

- Receive login information
- Student roster uploaded
  - Secondary uses ISEE, trimesters upload their final trimester
  - Others upload their own roster
- Validate roster
- Award skills when learners demonstrate them

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Awarding skills and issuing badges

- Approvers (educators) only have access to specific badges

- Award skills at a granular level
  - Once all skills are awarded, badge is issued.

- Ways to validate student skills
  - Assessments, hands-on, presentations, essay, etc.
  - Meeting learners where they are.

Approving Skills

- Go to https://skillstack.idaho.gov
- Click Log In (top right of navigation bar)
- Enter your username
- Choose Approver Menu
- Click Badges (these are the badges you have rights to approve)
- Click a colored cluster (National Career Clusters)
- Select pathway
- Click a badge to navigate to its' Skill Approval page
- Check skills individually by student or for the entire class period (if applicable) using the checkbox in the bright blue just below the skill descriptor.

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Introducing SkillStack® to learners

- Importance
  - Learner profile
  - Employer recognition
  - Prior learning credit
- Lesson plan
  - Benefits to learners
  - Career planning
- Learners can track progress in a unique portfolio and share badges. They can also attach evidence in their badges.
- Emphasize adding Learner email so employers can contact.
  - Non-school email is encouraged.

┌ Learning Objectives ┐

Introduce digital badges to students as a tool to help them reach their college and career goals.

Understand how earning SkillStack® badges in their CTE pathway will provide opportunities to articulate college credit and/or be relevant to employers when they apply for jobs.

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Demonstration: skillstack.idaho.gov

POV: Teacher/Approver/Educator	POV: Student / Earner	POV: Employer/Recruit

• Approver menu
  • Badges to approve
    • Approving Skills
  • Roster
    • Validate roster
    • Adding student to roster
    • Uploading roster
    • Logins / adding emails
  • Recent Approvals
    • Removing skills
	• My Badges menu
	  • Badges completed
	  • Portfolio link
	  • Skills gained/needed
	  • Certificate
	  • Attaching evidence
		• Register
		• Recruit menu
		  • Region
		  • Keyword search
		  • Select badges
		  • Timeframe
		  • Compose email

Question:
# *Why don't I have a SkillStack® account?*

- Possible reasons:
  - CTE program not approved
  - ISEE data incorrect or not available yet (mid-March next upload)
  - Not a capstone teacher
  - No active badges

- Similar question: *Why do I not see students in my SkillStack® roster?*
  - CTE program not approved
  - ISEE data incorrect or not available yet (mid-March next upload)
  - Not a capstone teacher

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Question:
# *How are Employers/Industry using SkillStack®?*

- 35+ employers currently in SkillStack®

- Why no promotion to Industry earlier?
  - No student emails added so employers would find candidates but get no responses to recruitment emails.
  - Teachers not actively awarding badges.
  - Some high school programs weren't added yet (started with 9 up to 50+) = small candidate pool

- Chicken or egg.
  - Build candidate pool or build employer list... now 32K unique earners in SkillStack®.

#ISTE2016   #badgepathways

THOUGHT: NOAH GEISEL
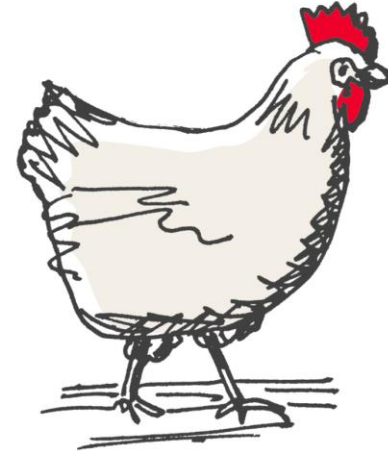
EMPLOYERS WILL CARE ABOUT BADGES WHEN THEY SEE THEM

VS
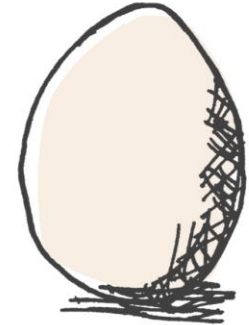
APPLICANTS WILL CARE WHEN EMPLOYERS START ASKING...

@BryanMMathers

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What comes next?

- April webinar/office hours for hands-on technical support (date TBD)
- Industry partnerships and promotional items
  - With more learners in SkillStack®, we can now involve industry and help employers connect with skilled individuals ready to enter workforce or continue their education.
  - Skills-based hiring
- Continual enhancements for stakeholders (industry, educators, students)
- Board policy work and redefining a microcredential for expanded use
- Building out digital badging ecosystem and identifying partnerships
- Updates to user guides, website, platform
- Continued perseverance
- Idaho Microcredential Advisory Council forming – watch for email next month

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Question:
How do I develop a new badge in SkillStack®?

1. Be a secondary, postsecondary, educational agency, or industry partner

2. Schedule a consultation (see next slide)
   - For fit and industry alignment

3. Identify skills and standards

4. Identify assessments you will use to determine skills are being met.

5. Suggest badge images

6. Submit badge application
   - appengine.egov.com/apps/id/cte/skillstack

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Questions?

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