Benefits of Microcertifications

IDAHO
Division of Career Technical Education
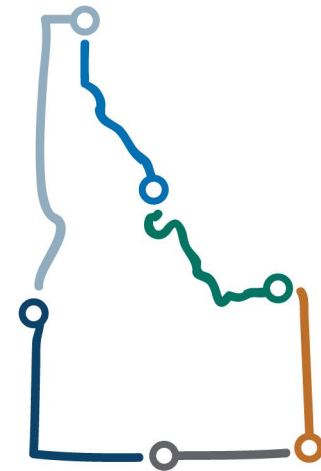
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Objectives

1. Overview
2. What's the difference?
   Microcredential vs. Digital Badge
3. Metadata
4. Benefits
5. Key partnerships
6. Success and growth
7. Misperceptions
8. Promoting the value
9. Future Vision

Presentation Resources

https://bit.ly/3NKGNyc

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What is SkillStack®?

Assess & Validate

Idaho's secondary (high school) and postsecondary (higher education) educators validate skills in SkillStack®

Required Skills:

- ✔ Formulate a strategy for developing a climate of mutual trust
- ✔ Identify and meet employee motivational needs
- ✔ Participate in and identify the four stages of team development
- ✔ Write and communicate performance expectations
- ✔ Lead supportive and corrective coaching sessions

Demonstrate & Earn

Leading Others
Issued 1/25/2020

Required Skills:

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Build Your Portfolio

- Crop Production
- Leading Others
- Food Storage
- Cooking Methods
- Managing Processes
- Knife Skills

Export, Download, & Share

- Badgr Backpack
- Facebook
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
- Email
- Webpage
- Future Employers
- Colleagues
- Potential Clients

And more!

What's the difference?

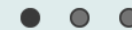| Microcredential (Microcertification)	Digital Badge
Non-credit bearing credentials awarded for mastery of defined skills or concepts, including career technical, academic, and/or industry-relevant skills.	A visual representation of a microcredential or stacked microcredential.

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Metadata

Advanced Wound Care

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

Advanced Wound Care for the Health Professional

Print Certificate

Digital badges are:

Data-rich

Verifiable

Portable

Stackable

Sharable

1EDTECH
C E R T I F I E D

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

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

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https://openbadges.org/

Benefits of microcredentials

Measure demonstration of knowledge, not time spent learning

Present lifelong learning

Adaptable to fast-changing labor needs

Competitive differentiator

Stackable and flexible

Demonstration of achieved learning

Help learners articulate skills

Create pathways of opportunity

Key Partnerships

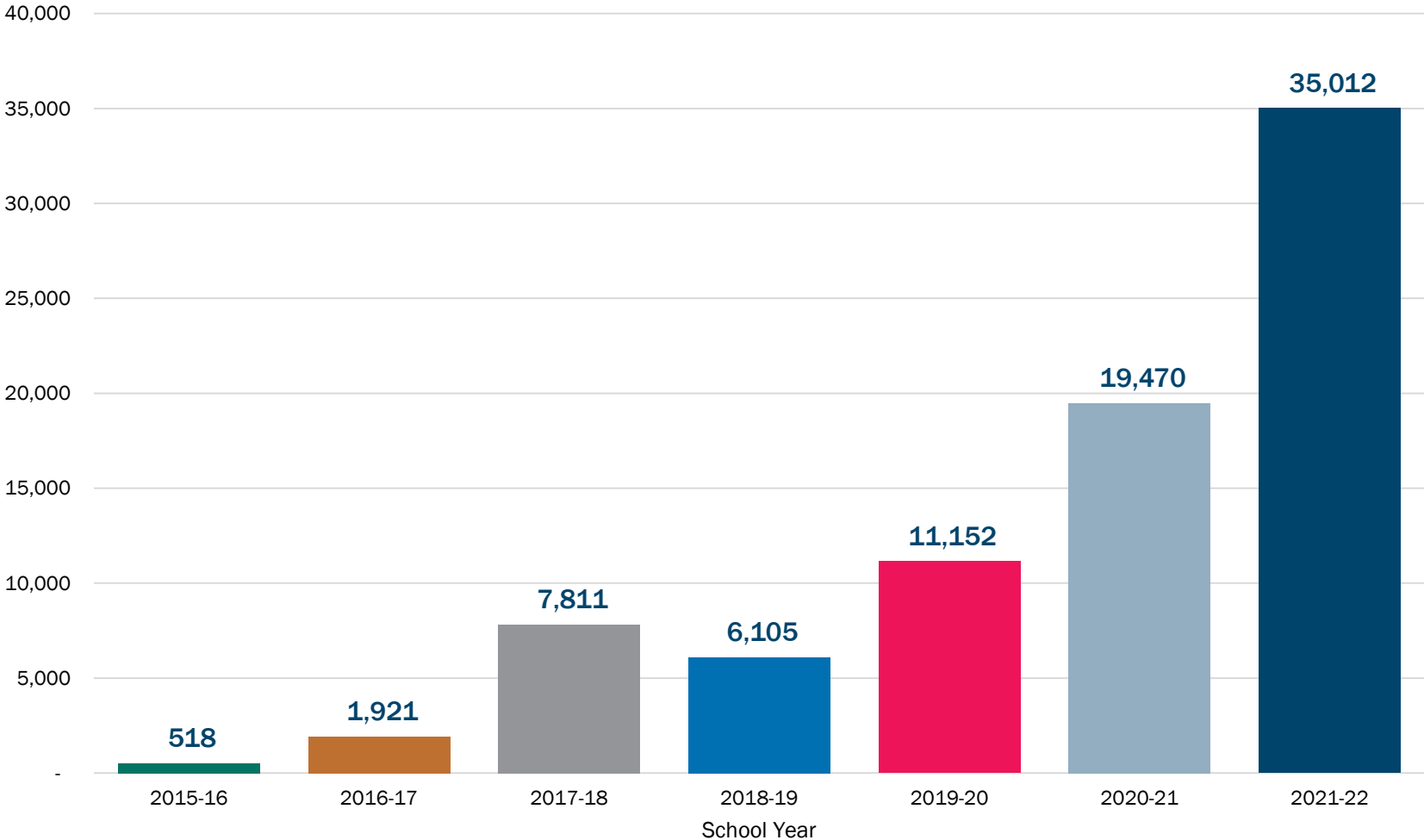|	
Secondary (High School) Pathways	• Credit articulation, program quality, assessment validation, workforce readiness
Postsecondary (Higher Education) Institutions	• Stackable badges within certificate or degree pathways, credit for prior learning
Boise State University	• Employee professional development
Workforce Training Centers	• Local industry needs and wage progression
Idaho Department of Correction	• CTE programs and re-entry skills Skill Stack - Idaho Dept. of Correction
Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections	• Youth career exploration
US/ID Department of Labor	• Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity, and Innovation grant
Other Educational Entities	• Wisdom Ranch Gap Year Program and Sho-Ban High School Programs

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Success and growth since 2016

Badges issued since 2016 >81,000

Over 25,000 unique learners earned at least one badge!

School 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

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Misperceptions of microcredentials

Reality

	Misperception
Available and growing in popularity	Microcredentials are a new concept
Rapidly changing – focused on specific skills; stackable	All credentials are created equally
Microcredential = demonstrated skill, Badge = visual representation	A microcredential is a badge
Allow personalized, meaningful demonstration of knowledge	Deliver value to a narrow group of learners
Learners need versatile, personalized opportunities	They're a passing fad
Employers are looking for qualified, skilled candidates	Employers don't care/recognize
Provide on-ramps and off-ramps for learners	Replace degrees and certificates

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Promoting the value

Key tips

- Know your audience(s)
  - Learners, educators, employers
- Consistent brand and information
- Relevant and meaningful
- Start small
- Find the "why"

Learners who earn microcredentials can:

- Transcribe college credit
- Share their portfolio
- Track their progress
- Demonstrate workforce readiness
- Explore potential careers
- Connect with employers

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What comes next?

- Industry partnerships

    Now that we have more learners in SkillStack®, we are at an exciting place to involve industry and help employers connect with skilled individuals ready to enter workforce or continue their education

- Continual enhancements for stakeholders (industry, educators, students)

- Board policy work and redefining a microcredential for expanded use

- Digital ecosystem

- Skills-based hiring

- Perseverance

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Questions?

Heather Luchte
heather.luchte@cte.idaho.gov
Chief Performance and
Accountability Officer

Taylor Stump
taylor.stump@cte.idaho.gov
Idaho SkillStack® and Performance
Management Coordinator

SKILL STACK®

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What do you know/think about microcredentials?

Positive, negative, or neutral comments welcome.

https://bit.ly/3PSBA8X

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