

Adult Education and Micro-credentialing

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Benefits of micro-credentials

- Skill building
- Provides proof of development
- Quick completion
- Cost effective
- Can be a pathway to a degree program
- Repurposing existing skill sets
- Retooling existing employees

Drawbacks of a micro-credential

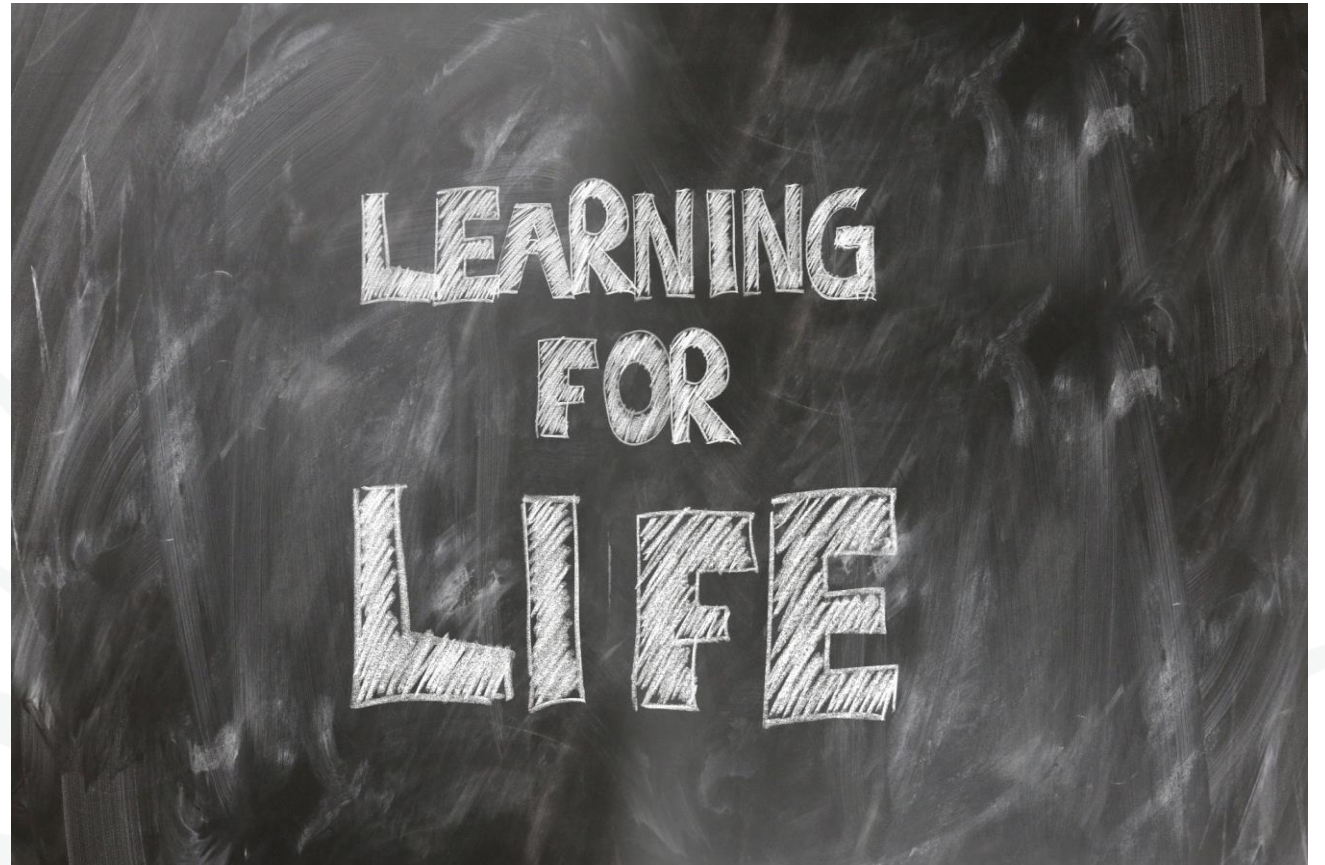
- No common definition
 - Micro-credential vs. professional certification vs. digital badge
- No standard for defining what constitutes a micro-credential
 - Academic credit/non-credit
 - Level/amount of coursework involved
- No guidelines for who can offer micro-credentials
 - How is learning assessed
 - Who is assessing
- May be interpreted differently in different fields or companies
- Disconnect between higher education and industry

AAACE project

Professional Development Institute (PDI)

PDI goal

Provide professional development resources to adult education professionals



Challenges

- Field of adult education is broad
 - Needs are diverse
 - Employers
 - Many of those teaching are experts in the field, but not in education
- Delivery methods
 - Multiple opportunities available for the same content
 - Multiple preferences from learners

Looking to the future

- Efforts to standardize:
 - Language around microcredentialing/badging/certification
 - Components/requirements for a microcredential
 - Who can offer microcredentials
 - Academic standards
- Coordination between education and industry
 - Creating a mutual framework
 - Examining which fields microcredentials may be effective for