

# North Carolina Partnership for Micro-Credentials

Presentation to the North Carolina  
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

October 6, 2020



# Our Why

**Teachers** are the most important factor in determining student's educational success...

Therefore the **professional learning and growth** of teachers must be central to improving student success.



# Our Vision

**A system of professional learning for all teachers that:**

- is aligned with high quality standards;
- provides personalized professional learning opportunities in multiple formats, times and ways;
- includes opportunities based on the skills, knowledge, and competencies each teacher needs to improve his or her practice so that every student can achieve at his or her maximum potential;
- and has the capacity to assess and recognize the acquisition, and demonstration of each teacher's skills, knowledge and competencies;

**so that teachers can advance in their career and be acknowledged and rewarded as professionals across schools, districts and the country.**



# Our Mission

**Develop a state-recognized system of competency-based micro-credentials that promotes and is integrated with a high-quality system of teacher professional learning.**

**As part of this professional learning system, competency-based micro-credentials should encourage and support the expansion of teachers' skills and knowledge to improve the achievement and outcomes of all students.**



# Our Task Force



**Myra Best & Emily Swartzlander**



**Melissa Tooley & Joseph Hood**



**Angela Quick, Kathryn McKnight, & Mike Martin**



**Public Schools of North Carolina**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

**Tom Tomberlin & Vanessa Wrenn**

# Our Work Plan

National  
Environmental Scan



Led by

**Melissa Tooley & Joseph Hood**

Director,  
Educator Quality

Research Associate

**Develop a report around a comprehensive national review of the micro-credentials work, including impact.**

The report and/or policy briefs should reflect the interests of the stakeholder groups and include:

- a. State, school district and school level work around micro-credentials.
- b. Organizations implementing micro-credentials (for profit and nonprofit providers) and comparisons of the various models and approaches to micro-credentials.
- c. Policies developed or policy considerations for micro-credentials including state and local policies and national policy organizations, i.e. *Design, Assessment, and Implementation Principles for Educator Micro-credentials* released by the Council of Chief State School Officers.
- d. Lessons learned thus far about micro-credentials including but not limited to standards, quality control, third party assessing, access, and equity.

# Our Work Plan

North Carolina  
Feasibility Study



Led by  
**Kathryn McKnight**  
Senior Research Scientist

## Complete a North Carolina feasibility study about micro-credentials.

The feasibility study should include but is not limited to:

- a. State assets such as current investments and infrastructure used for credentialing.
- b. State policies, rules, and regulations and policies for credentialing and professional learning including those related in the Leandro report.
- c. State pilots and other programs for micro and other credentialing including those offered through higher education, i.e. Opportunity Culture, or Advanced Teaching Roles.
- d. Local school districts and their work in micro-credentialing including national and state organization support.
- e. Other state, regional or advocacy groups working on credentialing, i.e. NCICU Digital Learning Initiative, Human Capital Roundtable.
- f. Consider the business model, incentives, a third-party organization for quality control, i.e. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, and the market (ROI) for micro-credentials.
- g. Lessons learned thus far about micro-credentials

# Our Work Plan

North Carolina  
**Stakeholder Meetings**



Led by

**Angela Quick & Mike Martin**

Vice President,  
Education and  
Workforce Development

Managing Consultant,  
Center for Education  
Services

**Lead a series of stakeholder meetings across the state in connection with partner meetings.**

The purposes of the stakeholder meetings include:

- a. Learning about professional learning through discussions with teachers, principals, superintendents, local boards of education and higher education representatives.
- b. Communicating with the participants to begin developing interest and awareness about the work around micro-credentials.



# Our Work Plan

North Carolina  
**Statewide Survey**



Led by

**John Vavricka**

Senior Director,  
Technology and Data Management

**Develop and administer a statewide online survey to stakeholders to get feedback about micro-credentials, licensure, and professional development.**

The purposes of the survey include:

- a. Getting feedback about professional learning from teachers, principals, superintendents, local boards of education and higher education
- b. Communicating with stakeholders and developing awareness about the work around micro-credentials.
- c. Generating data that will help inform the NC Micro-credentials recommendations.

# Our Next Steps

- **Continue executing** our work plan to gather data.
- **Collaborate** with the Micro-credentials Partnership to craft a set of recommendations.
- **Present Recommendations** to NC State Board of Education, Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC), and, in March, the Joint Education Oversight Committee of the NC General Assembly.



Our partners and funders:



**digiLEARN**  
DIGITAL LEARNING INSTITUTE



**NEW  
AMERICA**



**Z. Smith Reynolds**  

---

FOUNDATION



**BELK  
FOUNDATION**  
*Learn. Connect. Achieve.*