

# Digital and Open Badges: The Future of Credentialing

by Jonathan Finkelstein, [Credly](#)

Companion resources for “A New Vision for Workforce Preparation”  
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, January 20, 2015

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## Related Resources

### The Potential and Value of Using Digital Badges for Adult Learners

[https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/AIR\\_Digital\\_Badge\\_Report\\_508.pdf](https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/AIR_Digital_Badge_Report_508.pdf)

July 2013

Published by American Institutes for Research (AIR) for the  
U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE)

**Highlights:** “At their most basic level, digital badges are a new way to capture and communicate what an individual knows and can demonstrate. ... Some of the characteristics that are unique to digital badges include their ongoing connection to sources that can validate their issue; some form of evidence of the achievements they denote; and an emerging, consistent standard regarding what constitutes a badge, making it possible for these digital representations of accomplishment to be portable and displayed side by side with badges received from a range of sources. The digital nature of these badges also makes them discoverable, potentially free or inexpensive to issue, and displayable in far more settings than original paper certificates or embroidered badges.”

### Digital Badges and Competency-Based Education Programs

<http://blog.credly.com/brandman-cbe-badges/>

January 2014

**Highlight:** “Brandman, which uses direct assessment as part of the university’s new competency-based education programs, will issue official digital badges to certify discrete skills as students advance through degree-based programs. Competency-based education (CBE) is an innovative educational method that matches the skills most needed in a 21st century workforce with a formal degree program. With digital badges validating each skill, learners will be able to put evidence of their abilities to work in real time in the pursuit of professional opportunities.”

### 7 Things You Should Know About: Badging for Professional Development

<https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/EST1402.pdf>

Published by EDUCAUSE

August 2014

**Highlight:** “Badging can narrowly define specific skills required for particular jobs, providing clear guidance for those who pursue lifelong learning to advance their careers.”

## Other Related Links / Sites:

- **Credly**

<https://credly.com>

Credly provides platforms, tools and services for issuing, managing, sharing, and analyzing verified digital credentials and open badges. Thousands of organizations use Credly to make achievements more visible and to open up new opportunities that leverage each person's skills, contributions and abilities.

- **Open Credit**

<https://developers.credly.com/>

A technical resource for integrating the issuing of open badges into existing platforms or programs where achievements are earned or should be made more visible.

- **BadgeOS**

<http://badgeos.org>

BadgeOS is a free and open source system for fostering engagement and recognizing achievement. The system lets you easily create, organize and assess activities, reward achievements, and issue badges.

## Other Recent Presentations

- **Keynote: Alternate Credentialing Summit**

<http://vimeo.com/98182641> [Starts at 30:27]

UMass Boston, June 2014

- **Keynote: 2014 Online Teaching Conference**

<https://vimeo.com/100945807> [Starts at 27:32]

San Diego, June 2014

## Upcoming Course:

“Digging Into Badges: Designing and Developing Digital Credentials”

<http://www.educause.edu/eli/events/eli-course-digging-badges>

Offered by EDUCAUSE; facilitated by Jonathan Finkelstein with several guest presenters

## About Jonathan Finkelstein

Jonathan Finkelstein is founder and CEO of [Credly](#), creator of the Open Credit digital credential framework, and director of the open source [BadgeOS](#) project. Together these platforms have enabled thousands of organizations to recognize and reward skills and achievement. As founder of [LearningTimes](#), Jonathan's work has helped hundreds of mission-driven organizations produce and launch innovative online programs, products and platforms that have impacted the lives of millions of learners. Jonathan is author of *Learning in Real Time* (Wiley), contributing author to *The Digital Museum* (AAM), and co-author of a report for the US Department of Education on the potential for digital badges. Jonathan is a frequent speaker on digital credentials, open badges and the future of learning and workforce development. The son of two New York City public school teachers, Jonathan graduated with honors from Harvard University.

## About Credly

Credly empowers the recognition of lifelong achievement by offering the leading platforms for verifying, sharing and managing digital badges and credentials. Thousands of organizations, including the New York City Department of Education, Brandman University, SUNY, Adobe, Event Leadership Institute, Kirkpatrick Partners, University of Central Florida, EDUCAUSE, Training Magazine, Yale University, Smithsonian, and the American Alliance of Museums, use Credly to make achievements visible. Visit [Credly.com](http://Credly.com).