Hello, my name is Tim Rhodus, Project Leader for the Buckeye Badges Project at The Ohio State University. This brief slideshow will help you learn about Buckeye Badges: Our New System for Alternative Credentials.
This video was created by the McArthur Foundation and published on June 19, 2013. It will help explain the concept of digital badges.
To recap, digital badges provide an online representation of a skill or achievement. As with physical badges, they can be used to motivate behavior, recognize achievement and establish credibility. They aid in communication and most importantly, they can be shared by the earner with others.
Let’s switch to who is badging. Honestly, digital badging is happening from coast to coast. Even though this looks like one photo it is an example of Photoshop magic. Too bad the east and west coast institutions are reversed.
Here are some of the badges being awarded by the NYU School of Professional Studies. All together, they offered 180 different badge options in Spring of 2016 using the basno.com platform.
At Penn State University, badging is offered through several units: College of Liberal Arts, Penn State Libraries, College of Business and College of Education through a custom badging application built at Penn State.
Probably, the most popular badging system for beginning your badging program is credly.com. Here are three examples of University badging initiatives hosted on Credly: The Portland State University Library, University of Notre Dame and Illinois State University Honors Program.
and what about Buckeye Badges at Ohio State? In our first year, we accomplished quite a bit. Between July 2015 and May 2016, we designed a badging system around two undergraduate programs in Hort & Crop Science involving 10 instructors and 13 classes. The program was expanded during Spring to include the Denman Forum and Academy of Teaching Annual Conference. Over the first year, 1,723 badges were awarded. We also created a custom plugin for displaying badges in U.OSU and made presentations at numerous local, regional and national workshops and conferences.
Course badges were awarded in 11 classes plus everyone who participated during the Pilot phase earned the Pilot badge. This badge was replaced in 2016 by the Member badge.
In addition to course badges, we awarded a total of 839 Research and Teaching badges.
After the Pilot phase, we are continuing the Buckeye Badges project with a new Member badge, a revised website, OSU authentication and new partners.
The new website design was implemented over the summer and offers a more news-like approach to sharing information about the program. As with all sites, it is an ongoing work in progress.
At the bottom of the home page, a slider of all the published badges is available. Click on the graphic and the badge’s description and criteria will be displayed.
A major part of all badging systems is the managing and sharing your earned badges. In our case, this is handled by Backpack. Click on Backpack and you will now be authenticated by the OSU Shibboleth system.
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Beginning in September 2016, the OSU authentication system replaced Mozilla's Persona system. All badge accounts from the Pilot phase continue to be secure and can now be accessed through Shibboleth.
For those who might access their Backpack account from a public computer, you can sign out of the system by clicking on the account (gear) icon in the upper right corner before closing their browser window.
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For 2016-2017, we are beginning the new year with four new partners: Chemistry Fisher COB, Middle East Studies, Psychology and three other programs still in the discussion stage: UCAT, Buckeye Certified and CFAES Student Council.
### Elements of Each Badge

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>✅ Issuer</td>
<td>✅ Description</td>
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<td>✅ Short Description</td>
<td>✅ Required</td>
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<td>✅ Long Description</td>
<td>✅ Type of evidence</td>
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<td>✅ Value of earning</td>
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<tr>
<th>Options</th>
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<td>✅ Alignment(s)</td>
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<td>✅ Description</td>
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<td>✅ Square format</td>
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When thinking about digital badges, what goes into creating a new badge? Here is a check list of the items that will be attached to each new badge.
Opportunities for New Badges

Career Readiness Competencies*

- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Oral/Written Communications
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Information Technology Application
- Leadership
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Career Management

*National Association of Colleges and Employers

When thinking about badging opportunities and how badges can benefit students, the topic of skills and competencies is often mentioned as a need that badging can fill. Typically, these career readiness skills are highly valued but aren't identified in the typical college transcript.
Opportunities for New Badges

Undergraduate Co-Curricular Competencies*

- Communication
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Information Literacy
- Ethical and Moral Reasoning
- Global Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Interpersonal Engagement
- Self-Efficacy and Self-Awareness

*Draft Document

Likewise, co-curricular competencies don’t conform to the typical transcript and are frequently left up to the student to explain during an interview.
In closing, please visit the website at: buckeyebadges.osu.edu or contact Tim Rhodus via email - rhodus.1@osu.edu for additional information on Buckeye Badges. But wait, anyone who connects to the website and logs into Backpack will have a personal account created and each of you will be awarded our new Member badge. However please be patient, Member badges are awarded only at the end of each day. We’re still working on that. Thank you.