



## **Project Background:**

In recent years, the stackable credentials approach has emerged as a promising practice to help students progress along the education continuum and obtain a postsecondary credential with labor market value. By organizing traditional programs into a series of progressive, stackable certificates that build on each other, colleges have created a series of shorter pathways to associate degree completion. The certificates are intended to represent exit and entry points intentionally designed to maximize skill acquisition, employability, and seamless transitions to a career. Learners are able to exit a program for full-time employment and then resume their program where they left off when they return to college to pursue the next level of credential or degree attainment.

## **Project Overview:**

*Mapping Upward* is a two-year project supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE). It will provide technical assistance (TA) to community college networks as they work to embed stackable, industry-recognized credentials within technical associate degree programs. Sector-focused college networks will receive customized virtual and face-to-face TA from subject matter experts and a dedicated TA coach who will help the network and individual colleges advance their efforts in stackable credential design through priorities and actions based on local needs and targeted issues. College networks selected to participate include:

- Bakersfield College, Shasta College, and Reedley College
- Forsyth Technical Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, Isothermal Community College, and Piedmont Community College
- Luzerne County Community College, Lehigh Carbon Community College, and Northampton Community College
- Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and Mitchell Community College

The TA will continue through August 2017. A toolkit providing resources on designing and implementing stackable credentials will be developed over the course of the project and disseminated for use by colleges across the country.

The project is led by the Center for Occupational Research and Development (CORD), in partnership with Social Policy Research Associates and Abt Associates.

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## **To learn more:**

**Visit:** <http://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/community-college-stackable-credentials>

**Email:** [mappingupward@cord.org](mailto:mappingupward@cord.org)

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