



Digital Promise Launches New Learners' Journey Product Certification to Support Education and Workforce Transitions

The product certification signals to consumers that the LER technology supports diverse learning transition experiences

August 23, 2023 | Washington, D.C. – Global education nonprofit [Digital Promise](#) has launched the [Learners' Journey Learning and Employment Record \(LER\) Technology: Product Certification](#). With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the product certification will leverage design principles from a recent Digital Promise report, [Learning Transition Design Principles for Learning and Employment Records: Co-designing for Equity](#), to support diverse learning transition experiences and act as a signal for LER decision makers and users.

LER technologies are digital records of an individual's skills, credentials, diplomas, and employment history that have the potential to strengthen or reinvent resumes by including verifiable information about achievements in real time. It is critical that LER technologies are designed to meet the needs and abilities of learners and earners, especially those who are historically and systematically excluded.

The product certification will signal to consumers that the technology's development is profoundly driven by learners' and workers' learning transitions. LER technology teams must submit evidence to demonstrate that the product:

1. Enables users to find and connect with supports;
2. Enables users to connect to opportunities;
3. Provides opportunities for users to indicate self-asserted skills or share work samples; and
4. Centers users' unique personas and language needs.

“Learning transitions—navigating through increasingly complex educational and professional experiences—range significantly across each unique lived experience,” said Sierra Noakes, product certifications project director at Digital Promise. “LER technologies that center the diverse range of learning transition experiences, particularly the experiences of historically and systematically excluded individuals, is an essential step in

unlocking the incredible potential of the LER ecosystem. Congratulations to the technology teams who demonstrated this commitment!”

In collaboration with historically marginalized adult learners and workers, including multilingual learners, Digital Promise established a set of design principles to help inform the development of LERs that support an individual’s learning transitions. [Learning transitions](#) refer to the ways individuals change over time along their learning and career paths.

“Every learner and worker’s journey is a unique constellation of experiences,” said Dr. Alexandra Merritt Johnson, a researcher with Digital Promise’s Center for Inclusive Innovation. “By centering diversity in the spectrum of learning transitions, we pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future for learners and workers.”

During the final stages of the product certification’s development, a group of companies were selected to participate in the pilot of the application. Just under 60% of the technologies invited to participate in the pilot successfully met the requirements.

Since February 2020, Digital Promise has issued more than 100 certifications to tools intentionally designed to meet learners' needs. To learn more about the Product Certification work for LERs and other technologies, please visit productcertifications.digitalpromise.org.

Applications remain open on the Digital Promise [website](#) for product developers interested in applying for the certifications.

Press Contact:

Crystal Williams

Digital Promise

cwilliams@digitalpromise.org

240.494.6382

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About Digital Promise

Digital Promise is a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner. We work with educators, researchers, technology leaders, and communities to design, investigate, and scale innovations that support learners, especially those who've been historically and systematically excluded. Our vision is that every person engages in powerful learning experiences that lead to a life of well-being, fulfillment, and economic mobility. For more information, visit the [Digital Promise website](#) and follow [@digitalpromise](#) for updates.