

WHAT IS THE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS BADGING CHALLENGE?

A design challenge with universities and the Education Design Lab working to address the question:
How can we prepare students with the competency-based skills they need to succeed in the workplace?
Badge examples include: Critical Thinking, Cross-Cultural Competency, Creative Problem Solving, Empathy

THE PARTNERS

Who is Involved?

Role in Skills Badging Challenge

Education Design Lab

Education Design Lab uses design thinking and other tools to help schools, employers and innovators to design, test, and implement new education models.

Keeping student needs and employer expectations in mind, the Lab works alongside schools to develop competency-based digital badges that target the skills most important to employers.



A US-based nonprofit organization committed to international education in academic research, professional training and technical assistance.

IREX will provide technical expertise and logistical support for the development of the Oral Communications Badge - liaising between the Design Lab and University Partners.



The University Partners should be committed to innovation, providing 21st century skills to your students, and connected to employers in your country.

The University Partners will convene students, enthusiastic faculty and administrators, and employers to pilot the Oral Communications Badge in addition to providing their technical expertise and input.



WHAT IS A BADGE?



WHY IS IT NECESSARY?



"Badging" is a system used to identify and verify individual skills and achievements, and is gaining momentum as a way to certify and display skills that are not taught through traditional courses, much like a black belt in karate or a Six Sigma Certification for corporate management.

Educators are beginning to use badging as a way to map a second track of learning alongside the academic transcript and create micro-credentials that can complement a diploma and capture competency in specific areas.

WHY ORAL COMMUNICATION?

Oral Communication is a key workforce skill and includes active listening, knowing how to reach your audience, storytelling and professional communication among others.



■ **Collaboration:** We will collaborate on this complex innovation project with a group of like-minded institutions pursuing a similar goal. Learn from, share with and develop deep relationships with a professional network around this topic.

■ **Access to Content:** Each institution will eventually be able to access all of the digital badges designed by other cohort members including United States University Partners.

THE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS BADGING CHALLENGE

CONSISTS OF THESE 6 STEPS:

1

IDENTIFY UNIVERSITY PARTNERS



IREX is committed to the partnership and we are now seeking university partners who see the value in this badging system and can provide the expertise and insight to develop relevant content and an enabling environment for testing the end product.

2

CREATE STEERING COMMITTEE



IREX will work with the University Partners to identify a steering committee (4-8 people), which may involve the following people: a student, someone working in student affairs, someone in career services, someone who works across university departments, a faculty member experienced in collaboration, an employer partner.

3

DRAFT BADGE COMPONENTS



Education Design Lab will develop a draft of the badge related to Oral Communication and IREX and the University Partners will give input. This will include: curriculum, knowledge building, assessments, and how the badge will be delivered to users.

4

PROTOTYPE



Education Design Lab will prototype the Oral Communications Badge with input from IREX and the University Partners.

5

TEST



Once the Oral Communications badge prototype is developed, University Partners (with IREX support) will test the badge with cohorts of students to identify ways to improve the badge and strengthen its content. This will be an iterative process that may go through several trials.

6

SCALE



The Education Design Lab and their partners believe in open access to the badges we've created so any learner anywhere can try to earn them. That means whatever we develop will be available to users around the world.