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ABET Announces Completion of First Pilot Programs Under New Recognition of Credentials Service

BALTIMORE — *August 20, 2025* — ABET, the global leader in quality assurance for higher education programs, has completed a pilot study for its new **Recognition of Credentials** service — a fully virtual, peer-reviewed process that validates the quality and relevance of short-format, skills-based learning courses. Credential offerings by Siemens Digital Industries Software, Purdue University and ASCE were evaluated in the study and are now the first of their kind to hold the official recognition.

Unlike ABET's accreditation, which applies to academic degree programs, Recognition of Credentials is designed for micro-credentials, stackable certificates, professional training and other short courses that prepare learners for workforce-ready roles. The service helps credential providers stand out in a crowded market, align with industry needs and assure learners that they are gaining meaningful skills.

"Today's learners and employers are navigating an evolving landscape filled with diverse credential options," said Jessica Silwick, ABET COO and CFO. "With Recognition of Credentials, we're applying ABET's rigorous, peer-reviewed standards to ensure that these offerings deliver on their promises and prepare learners for real-world success."

About the Pilot Programs

There were several rounds of pilots launched starting in Fall 2024 with the goal of testing ABET's processes, refining standards and understanding credentialing needs across academia, industry and professional societies. Three organizations representing ABET's primary audience segments were selected:

- **Siemens Digital Industries Software and University of Colorado Boulder** – two sustainability credentials recognized*
- **Purdue University** —– ten AI credentials recognized*
- **American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)** — three continuing education credentials recognized*

By including a for-profit entity, an academic institution and a nonprofit professional society, ABET aimed to capture diverse perspectives in the credentialing space and ensure that the Recognition of Credentials framework is relevant across sectors.

The pilot process evaluated whether each credential effectively prepared learners for targeted professional skills, using a structured, virtual review and actionable feedback process. Each of the participating pilots received recognition, which remains valid for three years.

Why Recognition of Credentials Matters

Credential providers who earn ABET Recognition can:

- Validate the quality and relevance of their offerings
- Stand out in a competitive market
- Align with workforce demands
- Support continuous improvement with expert feedback
- Build global trust through ABET's reputation

"Non-degree education is playing a bigger role than ever in helping learners stay competitive," said Silwick. "By recognizing credentials, we're expanding our mission beyond traditional degree programs — ensuring that wherever learning happens, quality is assured."

ABET used pilot findings to refine the Recognition of Credentials process and will open applications in September 2025.

For more information, visit **www.abet.org/recognition/.**

About ABET

We are a nonprofit, ISO 9001 certified quality assurance organization. Through the accreditation of academic programs, recognition of credentials and assessment of student learning, we support excellence in education worldwide. Our services and global partnerships help equip professionals to confidently face the future. Together, we aim to contribute to a world that is safer, more efficient and more sustainable.

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***See below for the Credentials that have been Recognized by ABET:**

Siemens Digital Industries Software and University of Colorado Boulder

1. Applied Sustainability for Technical Managers
2. Design for the Circular Economy (Sustainable Operations)

Purdue University

1. Machine Learning for Linear Predictive Models
2. Data Analytics for Decision Makers
3. Manufacturing Analytics
4. Natural Language Processing Solutions: An Introduction to Evaluation and Implementation
5. Demystifying AI, Understanding Risks, and Shaping the Future

6. Global Regulation of AI
7. Data Science and AI Storytelling
8. Prompt Engineering
9. AI Policy and Governance
10. Machine Learning in Action: Tools, Techniques, and Industrial Cases

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

1. Construction Engineering
2. Civil Infrastructure Construction
3. Architectural and Commercial Building Construction