Welcome!

Employability. Mobility. Prosperity.

November 17, 2021

Please introduce yourself by entering your name, title, organization, and location in the chat window. *(Lower left of screen.)*
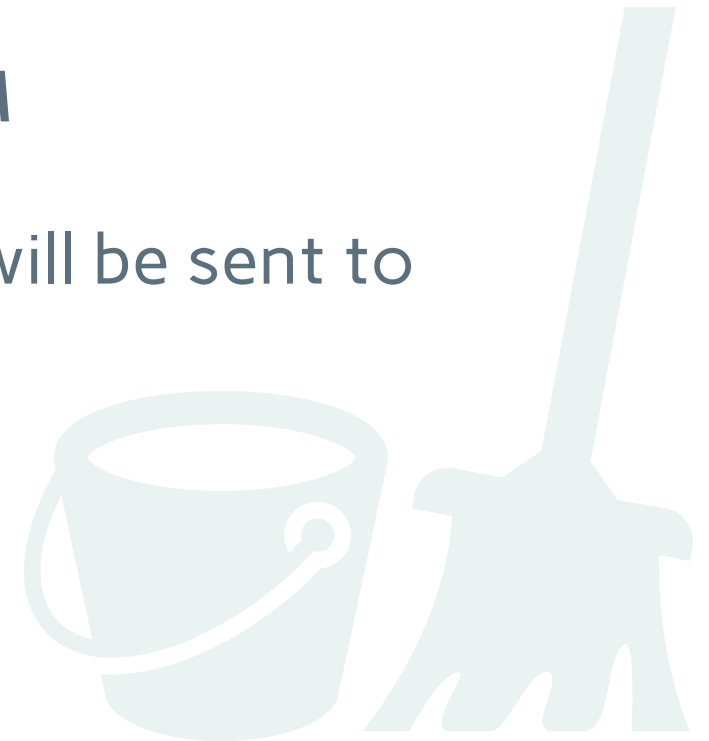
the **QA** commons
THE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMONS

Housekeeping

- Please post all *technical issues in the chat*

- Please post all *webinar questions in the Q&A*

- Webinar recording and presentation slides will be sent to all registrants post-webinar

Today's Moderator

Mason Bishop

President, QA Commons

Brings over 25 years of experience in employment policy, workforce development initiatives, postsecondary education and training, and entrepreneurship

Has worked at both the federal and state/local levels in both workforce development and postsecondary education.

Webinar Objectives

Bring community together for a **conversation** on the important topic of Employability.

Share ideas, opportunities, challenges, and noteworthy practices around soft skills, employer engagement, and career readiness.

Discuss **strategies and solutions** that help all learners prepare for the changing dynamics of the workforce and economy.

Learn how QA Commons supports educational institutions to develop the employability skills of their learners.

QA Commons Mission

QA Commons' mission is to ensure all learners are prepared for the changing dynamics of the workforce and economy. We aspire to help people realize upward mobility by developing a foundation of employability skills needed by all workers in all jobs and careers.

Our focus is on the proficiencies employers say are most needed, which candidates often lack, and can be the most challenging to develop. Referred to as "employability skills," "soft skills," and "noncognitive skills," we characterize them as **Essential Employability Qualities (EEQs).**

The Need

92% of executives say soft skills are equal to or more important than hard skills

– Wall Street Journal

70% of employers report difficulty hiring graduates with the soft skills they need

– Society for Human Resource Management

86% of students state getting a job is their primary reason for attending college

– Strada/Gallup

40% of new hires fail within 18 months because of inadequate soft skills

– Leadership IQ

" In today's world of software engineering and ever-more technology, it's soft skills that employers want. 91% of companies cited this as an issue and 80% of companies are struggling to find better soft skills in the market.

— LinkedIn "

Background and Impact

- Engaged **31** higher education institutions

- Evaluated **83** programs

- Accredited **14** programs

- Impacted **83,000** students

2016–2017	Research
2018–2019	National Pilot
2019–present	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
2020–2021	Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
present	National Expansion; Expanded Focus

Employability Framework

Essential Employability Qualities

Eight EEQs ensure a learner's preparedness for work, regardless of discipline or industry

▷ **Effective Communication**

▷ **Problem-Solving**

▷ **Critical Analysis**

▷ **Teamwork**

▷ **Personal Effectiveness**

▷ **Decision-Making**

▷ **Professionalism & Responsibility**

▷ **Career Management**

Standards

Five standards provide an evidence-based and consistent framework for delivering employability skills in education and technical training programs

▷ **EEQ Preparation (8 Proficiencies)**

▷ **Employer Engagement**

▷ **Integrated Support Services**

▷ **Learner Engagement**

▷ **Transparency and Adaptability**

Meet the Panelists

Dr. Jennifer Wies

Associate Provost, Eastern Kentucky State University

Robin Avant

Dean of Academic Affairs, Housatonic Community College

John Gregory

Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Adult Education, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Dr. Tim Todd

Provost, Murray State University

How QA Commons Can Help You

QA Commons helps organizations implement Essential Employability Qualities (EEQs) in a **consistent manner, ensuring quality and reliability** in worker and student skills delivery.

Our approach allows organizations to **target and integrate** the skills most needed for job success, mobility, and prosperity.

The Employability Framework, with its eight EEQ Proficiency Areas and five Standards for Employability, is **flexible and can be applied to existing and planned projects**.

QA Commons Solutions

1 Assessment

Surveys engage instructors, advisors, and staff in identifying strengths and gaps in identifying strengths and gaps in delivering employability skills and career readiness services.

QA Commons develops a tailored technical assistance plan that identifies the steps needed to improve and align employability skills with courses and programs.

2 Technical Assistance & Professional Development

QA Commons delivers a set of individualized technical assistance tools, such as workshops, academies, and individualized coaching focused on embedding Essential Employability Qualities (EEQs) into curricula, effectively engaging employers, and integrating Employability Framework standards.

3 Full Framework Adoption

QA Commons awards EEQ Certification (EEQ CERT), which serves as an indicator of full Employability Framework adoption. It is the hallmark of quality in delivering education and training programs aligned to employability.

Coming Soon!

EEQ Badging

Learners will be able to earn a skills-based digital credential for each of the eight EEQs

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For more information contact Dina Igoe at **dina@theqacommons.org**

Visit our website for more information, resources and stories:

www.theqacommons.org