IITG Mid Year Project Report

Name of Principle Investigator:
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IITG Project Title (truncated)
2018-Buffalo (UB)-Moore-Blockchain Badging - Coursera-to-Credit

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?
Proposed Targets:
1) Complete the development of and deploy a four-course Blockchain specialization in 2018;
2) Develop a process to award non-credit UB-branded badges to learners submitting Coursera-issued certificates of completion;
3) In partnership with Empire State College (ESC), UB Computer Science Engineer (CSE) faculty will develop a process that can be replicated throughout SUNY to migrate Coursera-issued verified certificates to a campus branded badge; and
4) Describe and share how to offer Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) to a narrow brand of learners and determine how it may be used to combine a non-credit badge with professional experience to grant academic credit.

Mid-Year Progress:
1) Designed, produced, constructed and published a stackable modular design of online Blockchain (BC) courses on Coursera. They are included in the courses: Blockchain Basics, Smart Contracts, Decentralized Applications (Dapps), and Blockchain Platforms;
2) Developed a partnership with ESC to develop a process for issuing Coursera-issued verified certificates to a campus badge;
3) Collaborated with ESC and UB stakeholders to develop a Professional Learning Evaluation (PLE) of Blockchain non-credit curriculum;
4) Developed a PLE rubric;
5) Measured BC against the PLE rubric;
6) Created a findings report;
7) Established a non-credit micro-credential to credit pathway; and
8) Shared the Blockchain Badging – Coursera-to-Credit progress with the SUNY Micro-credential and Scalable Models Communities of Practice.

Future development entails leveraging Open edX and/or other badge server(s) to launch related CSE micro-credential certificates/badges and degree-related content.

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).
Proposed budget = $59,965
Awarded budget = $60,000
Spent to date = $38,479
% spent to date = 64.17%
Remaining = $21,486

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.
We have had continued success of project milestones.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might be helpful to other PI's?
We formally launched the project at a Kick-off Meeting (KOM) August 22, 2018, at which time all stakeholders

were aligned to the project scope, schedule and budget. Following, were meetings and activities consisting of ESC's PLE/PLA approach, rubric development, content review, and identification of processes.

Our team is currently working on the PLE report, which we anticipate will be released in Jan 2019.

Regular meetings and team engagement following the KOM is proving to be fruitful to keep participants engaged and the project activities timely.

5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

It was critical that we engage CSE faculty, undergrad and grad personnel, internal and industry partners in the process. We were fortunate the team we identified was willing, and had time, to volunteer for the tasks associated with reviewing/recommending pathway. Identifying those who will fill these key roles is crucial to this pathway's success. The PLE team as described will not be appropriate for all instances, so new PLE teams will likely have to be generated for different situations.