Understanding Credentials

Each year, colleges and universities award:

**Types:**
- Bachelor’s degrees: 1.8M
- Associate’s degrees: 980K
- Certificates: 980K
- Master’s degrees: 750K
- Professional degrees: 750K

**Certifications:**
- Awarded by professional associations, industry groups, vendors and government agencies
- Awarded for passing a written, oral or performance-based exam

**Licenses:**
- Awarded for fulfilling requirements such as degree/certificate attainment; certification; passing an exam; and/or acquiring work experience
- Legally required to perform certain jobs

Out of 142 million workers in the United States:

- 47 million workers have a BA
- 38 million workers have either a certification or a license
- 17 million workers report a certificate at their highest level of education
- 48% of job openings for certification-holders are in the healthcare industry

On average per year...
- Certifications/licenses and no other postsecondary credential earn $39,000
- AA-holders earn $46,000
- Women earn $24,000
- BA-holders earn $60,000