

OpenBadges

LEARNER STORIES: How badges can lead to jobs and new learning opportunities



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PROBLEM: Sal is a busy parent who wants to switch careers, but isn't sure how to add the required skills or break into a tough new job market.

SOLUTION:

1

Earn badges. Sal earns badges for relevant skills he already has, and follows the learning pathway of mentors already in his new field.

2

Collect and display badges. After adding his badges to his online resume and social networking profiles, Sal begins getting calls from recruiters.

3

Unlock new career and learning opportunities. By capturing his existing skills and helping to add new ones, badges help Sal transition to an exciting new career.

Sal: Breaking into a new job market

Sal is a 32-year-old father of two with a BA in accounting. He works as a finance professional, but is looking to switch over to environmental policy. Sal has learned a lot about his new field through his undergraduate education, work experience, and personal history. But he has little to show for it.

He starts taking night school courses, but finds them difficult to juggle with raising his two kids and current job. And he's unsure of the specific skills he most needs to develop to break into the field. Potential employers are telling him that his formal education and experience don't match with the job requirements they're looking for.

How badges help: Connecting with mentors and adding missing skills

Badges help Sal connect with mentors, add missing skills and break into his new career. Sal begins taking free online courses through Peer 2 Peer University, making it easier for him to fit learning into his busy schedule. While there, he recognizes several badges that match skills he has already developed, including the Critical Thinker, Public Speaker, Pro Presenter, Debater and Green Evangelist badges.

He also finds several P2PU peers who already have the Green Evangelist badge. He browses their badge collection to identify other skills to work on, and asks for advice on breaking into the field. Sal adds his new badges to his web site, social networking profiles and online resume. As a result, he soon begins receiving calls from recruiters and new potential employers impressed with the breadth of his relevant skills.

The result: Opening new employment opportunities

Badges help Sal gain access to an exciting new job market. Badges capture employable skills Sal has acquired across his formal education, work experience, and personal learning. This gives employers a far more detailed and granular picture of his hard and soft skills. And opens new employment opportunities to help Sal transition to a new career.