



What the Arkansas CTO Challenge Project Will Do

Scale the trusted skills data that powers the existing LAUNCH ecosystem.



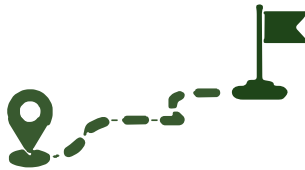
Goal: Help employers define needed skills, help education and training providers show where those skills are taught, and help Arkansans connect learning to real opportunity.

1 Publish course-level skills data



Show the specific skills taught in courses and training, not just the overall program or credential.

2 Build clear career pathways



Create transparent, stackable pathways and competency frameworks for priority occupations.

3 Validate skills with employers



Work with industry partners to confirm that the skills and pathways reflect real hiring needs.

4 Support trusted skills assessments



Help providers create performance-based assessments that employers recognize and trust.

5 Issue verified skills credentials



Award verified skills credentials through Learning and Employment Records (LERs) and test cross-state interoperability.

Establish skills data governance



Create open rules and stewardship practices so skills data stays accurate, current, and trusted.

What this enables



Clearer pathways for students and workers



Better talent signals for employers



Stronger statewide talent infrastructure



Initial focus: Southwest Arkansas advanced manufacturing — including lithium, aerospace, and defense.