

OpenBadges

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



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PROBLEM: Jin is an artist moving to a new city. She worries that the strong reputation she has earned in her old community won't transfer to her new one.

SOLUTION:

1

Earn badges. Badges provide a record of the skills and reputation Jin has gained in her local community, linked to work samples and testimonials.

2

Take them with her. Jin carries her badges with her as she meets new artists and community members in her new home.

3

Make skills and reputation more portable. This helps Jin ease the process of transferring to a new community, ensuring her good work and reputation aren't lost.

Jin: Transferring skills to new communities

Jin is a 22-year-old artist from Philadelphia. She has partly completed a degree in management at community college. But her real passion is her art. Jin actively participates in the local art community through social networking, conferences and shows. She's also started a youth art-mentoring program and works with kids evenings and weekends.

Jin is planning an upcoming move to Portland, and is nervous about leaving her local community and starting from scratch in a new place. She wants to continue focusing on her art, but she has little to show for her community work or peer reputation, and has no easy way to transfer them with her to her new community.

How badges help: Making her reputation and skills more portable

Badges help Jin recognize the reputation she's gained within her local community — and transfer it to her new home. Jin has a specialized skill set with real value, especially for specific communities and niches. Badges make her reputation portable across communities, like the one she hopes to find in Portland.

Jin earns the Avant Garde or Cutting Edge badge from her Philadelphia peers, linked back to samples of her work to signal her style, interests and strengths, plus a Greeter badge signaling her community-building and mentoring tendencies. She also earns a higher level Gold Star badge recognizing her long-standing contributions and status with the community.

Jin carries all of these badges with her as she meets new artists and community members in Portland.

The result: Easing the transition to a new community

Jin's badges bootstrap the process of transferring to a new community, ensuring her good work and reputation are not lost. Badges from her community college experience also present evidence of Jin's broader skills and achievements — instead of coming away with nothing to show from her incomplete community college degree.