The world is ready to forge ahead into a skill-based future, but creating that future will require collaboration and the right tools. The Center for Skills by C-BEN is the catalyst of consensus for industry leaders at the intersection of education, workforce, and employer hiring systems. CFS x C-BEN is a guiding force—building trusted, scalable solutions for the recognition and validation of skills. We stand at the center of validation, collaboration, and innovation to drive progress. Together, we will blaze the trail towards a skills-based future that works for everyone, no matter their background.
CFS x C-BEN is driving transformation in talent ecosystems—creating objective, reliable ways to assess and validate skills; implementing quality practices; and sparking innovation and action.

The Center for Skills by C-BEN is turning the promise of a skills-based future into practice. At CFS x C-BEN, we:

- **Create and implement a common vision for skills validation, verification, and innovation.** We bring together industry leaders to create objective, reliable ways to assess and validate skills; implement quality practices; and drive innovation and action.

- **Develop and deploy new, field-facing assessment practices** in collaboration with cohorts of performance-based assessment innovators.

- **Create state blueprints for new skills validation models in education and workforce** in partnership with the National Governors Association “State Skills-Based Hiring” cohort.
Across sectors, industry-leading employers are competing to find and retain skilled workers and keep their workforce up to date on essential competencies.

At the Center for Skills by C-BEN, we help industry leaders transform their talent ecosystems, so that employers can assess and validate their employees’ skills, and employees have clarity on the skills they need to prepare for and advance in their careers.

CFS x C-BEN offers the right tools, and the right partners, to guide your organization into the skills-based future.

Businesses and states across the country have indicated their readiness to join the skills-based movement and realize its associated opportunities. Achieving this potential requires quality assessments to accurately capture and share people’s unique skills and experiences.”

Patti Constantakis
Director of Corporate Philanthropy at Walmart.org
Throughout the nation, state leaders are seeking ways to increase labor force participation and align residents’ skills to high-demand, high-potential career pathways.

Skills-based approaches are helping increase state labor force participation rates and meet workforce development goals – like in Alabama, where building a state-wide, skills-based talent marketplace is helping the state chart a path out of one of the most severe worker shortages in the United States.

At the Center for Skills by C-BEN, we provide state leaders with the tools and resources they need to transform their talent ecosystems.

Now is the time for coordination and partnership across state lines. CFS x C-BEN is the catalyst for consensus – bringing together forward-thinking industry leaders at the intersection of education, workforce, and employer hiring systems to drive progress. We work alongside partners that include the State of Alabama and Governor Kay Ivey, the Society for Human Resource Management, and more, to make our vision of a skills-based future a reality for our nation and every person in it.

We provide state leaders with resources and collaboration to guide the transformation of state-wide talent ecosystems, so that more residents are working, skilled, and well-compensated.

States must work together to ensure that competencies become the portable currency of the labor market. Now is the time for coordination and partnership across state lines.”

Kay Ivey
Governor, State of Alabama
While we support employers to shift to skills-based hiring, the flip side of the coin is competency-based education. The world is moving away from proxies of learning like seat time or time on the job, and moving to emphasizing what someone knows and can do.

As a leader in education, you understand the urgency of this moment, and your institution’s potential to revolutionize how learning is accessed and experienced. The C-BEN network is where passion, collaboration, and a commitment to excellence combine to create a better path forward.

CFS x C-BEN offers Hallmarks of Assessment as a guide to faculty, instructional staff, and others who may be providing learning and assessing skills. We also work with institutions to create valid, reliable performance-based assessments and deploy comprehensive assessment strategies.

People deserve to be recognized for the skills they have acquired, while employers need to be able to validate that people are proficient in key areas. How do we better leverage assessments to accurately capture peoples’ unique skills and experiences?”

Kathleen McLaughlin
Executive Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer, Walmart Inc.
Leading companies, state governments, and even the federal government are making the transition from traditional approaches. The world is ready to forge ahead into a skill-based future, but creating that future will require collaboration and the right tools.

We built the Center for Skills by C-BEN alongside our partners SHRM, Upskill America, National Governors Association, and Education Design Lab and many others, because we know that a truly skills-based future will strengthen our nation’s economy and unlock economic opportunity for more people, everywhere—and because none of us can do this work alone.

**Together, we can guide the field towards a skills-based future.**

With our core partners, we are looking for organizations to join us over the next 18 months as we support 6 solution sprints on assessment and skills validation issues that require cross sector solutions. Sprints will address topics such as: equity and assessment, ethical AI use, federal and state policy implications, assessment and quality assurance.

Join the CFS x C-BEN Partnership

With the generous support of Walmart, CFS x C-BEN will work to answer a question with growing importance to the skills-based movement: How can we better leverage skill assessments to accurately capture peoples’ unique skills and competencies?

To join us, get in touch at c-ben.org/centerforskills
The Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN) guides CFS x C-BEN’s bipartisan coalition of leaders in education, workforce, and employer hiring systems, offering expert resources to support the development of quality skills-based systems and facilitating alignment between learning institutions, employers and the states where they operate as they shape the future of education and work.

C-BEN is revolutionizing how we design, experience, and measure learning throughout a lifetime. We believe learning should be measured by what you can do—the knowledge, skills, and behaviors that lay the foundation for your success—and for more than 10 years we have been guiding our expansive network of education leaders, employers, policymakers, and changemakers towards quality competency-based models and practices.

C-BEN has served as the catalyst that has helped Illinois stakeholders revolutionize our early care and education professional development. As partners, we went from the realm of exciting, innovative ideas to application and implementation."

Joni Scritchlow
Senior Director – Professional Opportunities & Development
Gateways to Opportunity
Let’s Get To Work

CFS x C-BEN is seeking partners across industries and sectors to join our initiatives and advance skills-based talent ecosystems.

c-ben.org/centerforskills