



Buckeye Badges Pilot Project - Final Report

by Tim Rhodus, Project Leader

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The pilot phase of Buckeye Badges was a success! The systems were developed, implemented and expanded beyond the original proposal. A detailed report of the project is available at: go.osu.edu/badgereport

Project Description: Dr. Tim Rhodus and team successfully piloted digital badging at Ohio State during Autumn 2015 and Spring 2016 for: (1) two major programs in the department of Horticulture and Crop Science, (2) the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, and (3) the Academy of Teaching Annual Conference.

Project Support: This project was generously supported by OUE and ODEE. Funding was provided by the Zirkle Endowment for Undergraduate Instruction for Innovation.

Presentations and Training

Between January, 2015 and August 2016, Dr. Rhodus will have delivered 11 presentations and/or workshops on badging and the Buckeye Badges Pilot Project to numerous audiences at OSU and two professional conferences outside of Ohio.

Results of Digital Badging Pilot Project

1. System Software

The project acquired and installed badging software on a secure, OCIO-hosted server and configured the system to provide core badging services: 1) bulk awarding of badges to multiple email accounts, 2) generation of custom reports covering badge awards and Backpack accounts and 3) customized communication options for sharing badges to social networks and U.OSU.

2. Badging Environment

Buckeye Badges was designed to facilitate digital badging for the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science's two undergraduate programs - Sustainable Plant Systems and Professional Golf Management. 23 badges were created and offered, based

on assessment measures. In addition, Pilot badge, was created to encourage student participation through enhanced program identification.

3. Course Badges

A total of 884 course badges were awarded during the Pilot phase. Badges were awarded to all grade levels, Freshmen to Seniors in 13 different classes.

4. Research and Teaching Badges

During Spring semester, Buckeye Badges was expanded to include the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum and the Academy of Teaching's Annual Conference on Excellence in Teaching and Learning. A total of 695 Research badges were awarded to Denman presenters and awardees and a total of 144 Teaching badges were awarded to conference presenters and attendees.

5. Sharing Badges with Backpack

Throughout the pilot, a total of 227 course, research and teaching badges were claimed by 152 students using their Buckeye Badges Backpack. Once a badge was claimed, students were able to share their award on social networks and U.OSU.edu.

Next Steps

Now is the time to advance digital badging at OSU by acting on opportunities to grow the use of badges in additional departments and programs and improving the badging platform.

Specifically, we propose:

Expansion of Badging to Additional Departments and Areas

1. expand the badging environment to include TA and Faculty training programs, Career Preparation programs, and other career/co-curricular skills areas
2. expand Course badges offered through various departments
3. expand Research badges offered by the Undergraduate Research Office and Teaching badges offered by various programs

Badging Platform Improvements

4. improve authentication and remote administration
5. improve badge sharing and endorsement between Backpack and popular social networks like LinkedIn and Facebook.
6. implement a portfolio solution that will allow students, faculty, alumni and employers to create a comprehensive narrative about their academic and professional accomplishments while also facilitating effective networking