



Jessica A. Silwick, CPA, MBA, CAE, is the chief financial officer and chief operating officer (CFO/COO) at ABET.

In her role, she is responsible for developing ABET's financial management strategy and the integrity of the financial information. Jessica leads communications and marketing, professional offerings, operations, human resources, information technology, and internal audit. Before joining ABET, Jessica previously worked for large organizations in manufacturing, pharmaceutical and energy sectors. She holds a bachelor's in accounting from University of Notre Dame of Maryland and an MBA from University of North Carolina, Kenan-Flagler School of Business. Jessica is an active Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Association Executive. She has professional certificates from Yale and Cornell. Currently, she serves as a Director-at-Large for The Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives.

Her professional achievements have been widely recognized. Jessica was named one of the Top 50 CFOs by the OnCon ICON Awards in 2022 and received the AICPA's Emerging Leader Award in 2015. Most recently, she was honored as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders of Baltimore for 2024 by Women We Admire.

WORKSHOP: ABET Workshop 2: ABET's Recognition of Credentials Service

Dr. Jessica A. Silwick and Amanda G. Taylor
ABET

As alternative learning pathways expand, ensuring the quality and credibility of emerging credentials has become essential for learners, employers and institutions alike. This interactive workshop introduces ABET's Recognition of Credentials, a new quality assurance service designed for skills-based, non-degree programs such as micro-credentials, stackable credentials and certificates. These short, skill-base programs offer flexible pathways for individuals to build and gain expertise—but only if their quality can be trusted. Over the past two years, ABET has developed a fully virtual review process grounded in quality system assurance. A successful pilot study with Siemens Digital Industries Software, the University of Colorado-Boulder, Purdue University Online and the American Society of Civil Engineers helped refine and streamline the service. Sixteen credentials are currently recognized, with the full list available on ABET's website. In this workshop, participants will examine real examples, discuss quality review processes and explore how ABET's framework supports professional, consistent credentialing. Attendees will leave with clear, practical insights into how credentials are shaping higher education, how ABET assures quality—and why verifying them is essential to building a responsible, future-ready system of quality assurance.