

Developing a United States Qualification Framework

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Of the more than **4,000**
providers of industry
certifications in the United
States, how many have
undergone **CHEA**
accreditation?

Less than 10!

(because it's not necessarily required)

Source: [Hechinger Report](#)



What does this mean?

The mystery surrounding accreditation, levels, and learning pathways in the United States can sometimes be an obstacle too large to overcome.



1. What are NQFs

National Qualification Frameworks are tools to educate about education.

→ **Learning Outcomes**

Generally described via levels so there's less confusion around credentials & qualifications.

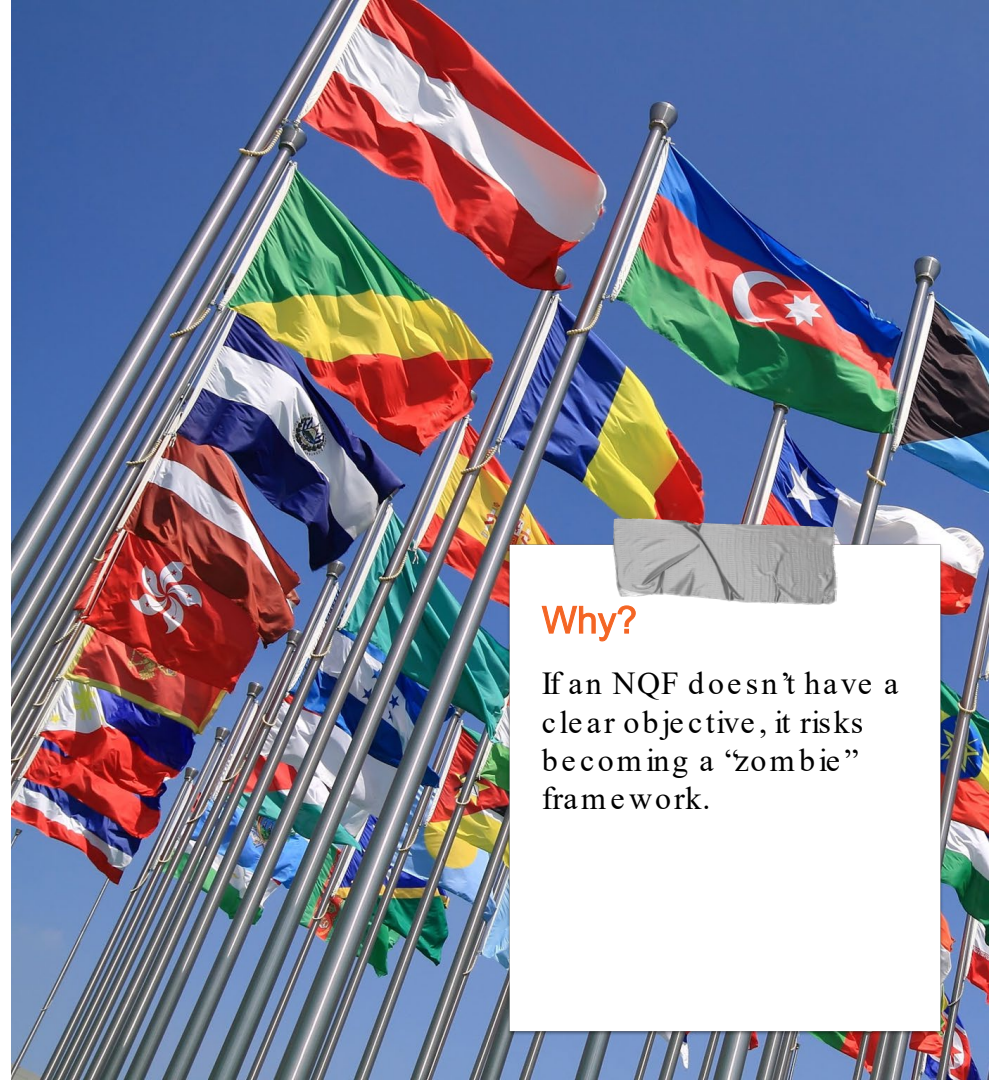
→ **Transferability**

Concrete articulation allows for greater access to advance learning.

→ **Fluidity**

Supports accessibility and increases learning opportunities.

The goal of the USQF must
be to **BENEFIT**
LEARNERS both
domestically and abroad.



Why?

If an NQF doesn't have a clear objective, it risks becoming a "zombie" framework.

Why the United States Needs an NQF

A successful NQF will result in increased:

- Transparency
- Comparability
- Portability
- Quality Assurance





2. How are NQFs used?

They accelerate an understanding of credentials, both domestically and abroad.

→ **Domestically**

They assist users in knowing the value of a qualification.

→ **Internationally**

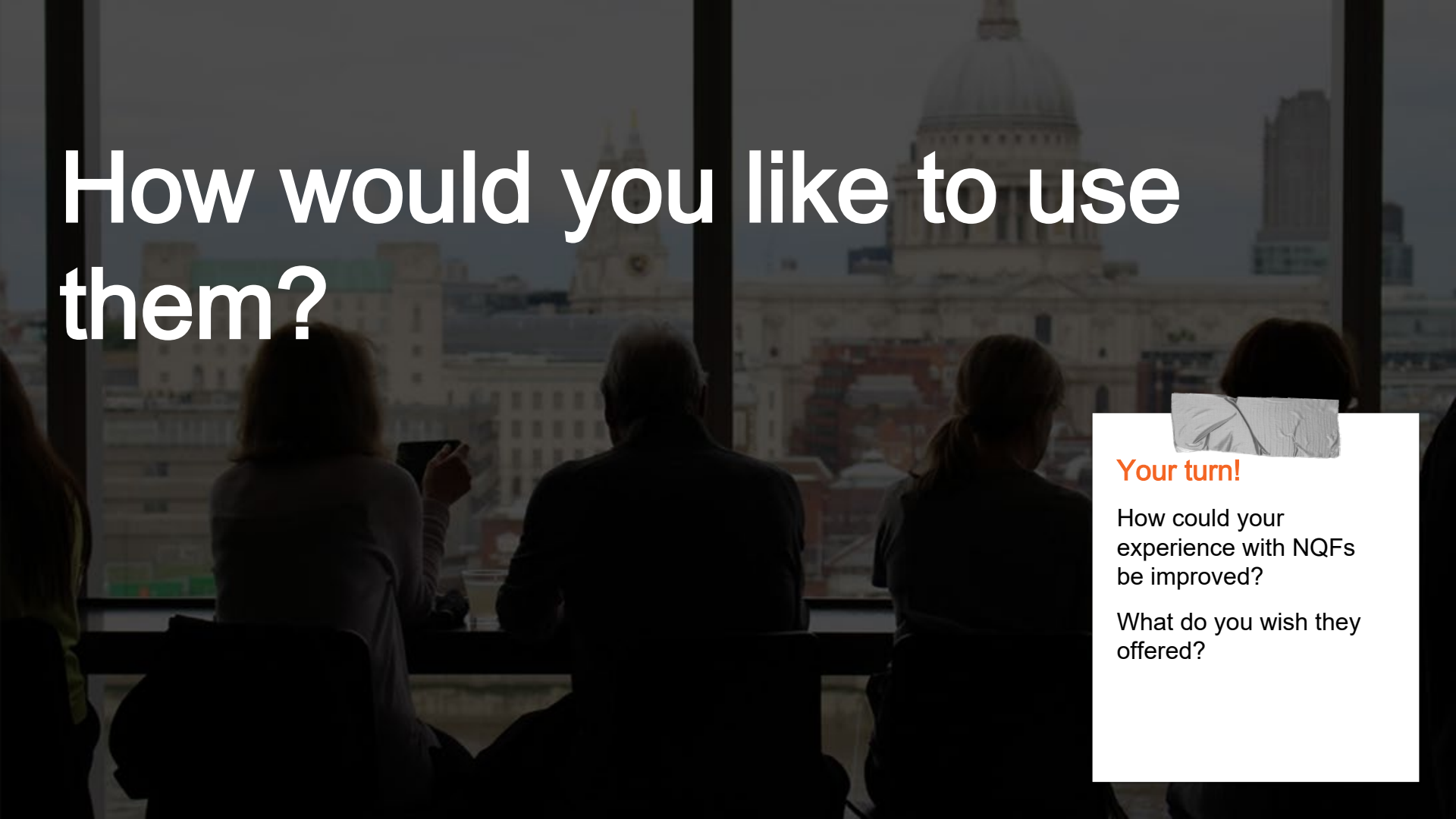
They help stakeholders understand how credentials fit within a particular system.

How do you currently use NQFs?

Your turn!

As credential evaluator professionals, what is your day -to-day experience with NQFs?

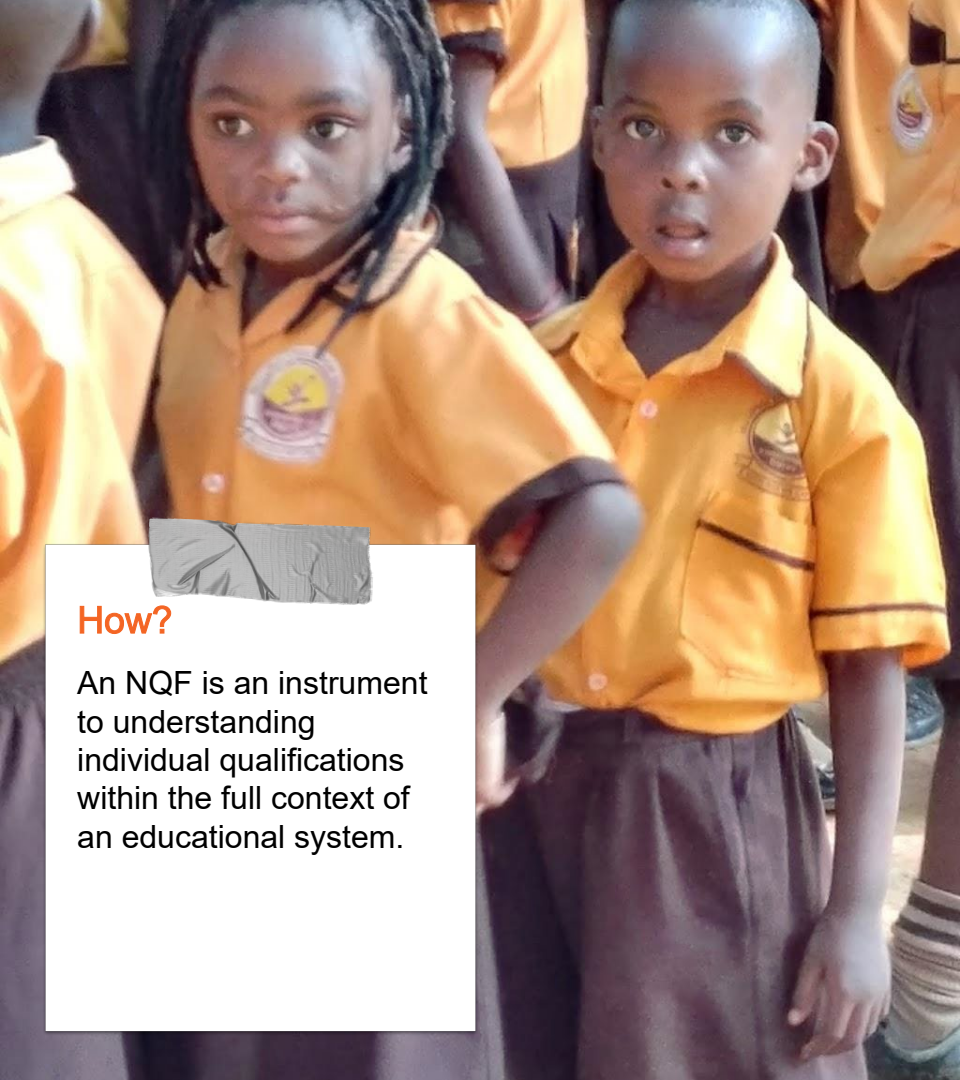
How would you like to use them?

The background of the slide shows the silhouettes of four people sitting at a table, looking out a large window at a city skyline. A prominent domed building, likely a cathedral or parliament building, is visible in the center of the skyline. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening or overcast day.

Your turn!

How could your experience with NQFs be improved?

What do you wish they offered?



How?

An NQF is an instrument to understanding individual qualifications within the full context of an educational system.

The goal

Provide a National Qualification Framework that describes the relationship of educational qualifications to each other in the United States.



3. Why the USQF?

The benefits of NQFs have been proven globally and outlined in various research studies.

- What is the problem the USQF will solve?
- How will we measure success?

—

Certificates are being conferred at a rate of **1 million per year** in the US.

Source: [Nat'l Center for Ed Statistics](#)

Note:

Digital badges are currently the fastest growing credential in the United States.

Where do they fit in the traditional educational landscape?

Google has enrolled more than 75,000 students in their IT certificate training program

THAT'S MORE THAN THE
ENROLLMENT OF
PRINCETON,
HARVARD, AND
YALE COMBINED

Source: [Inside Higher Ed](#)





4. How is an NQF being developed?

The USQF is being run in 3 phases:

→ **Phase 1**

Development of the framework

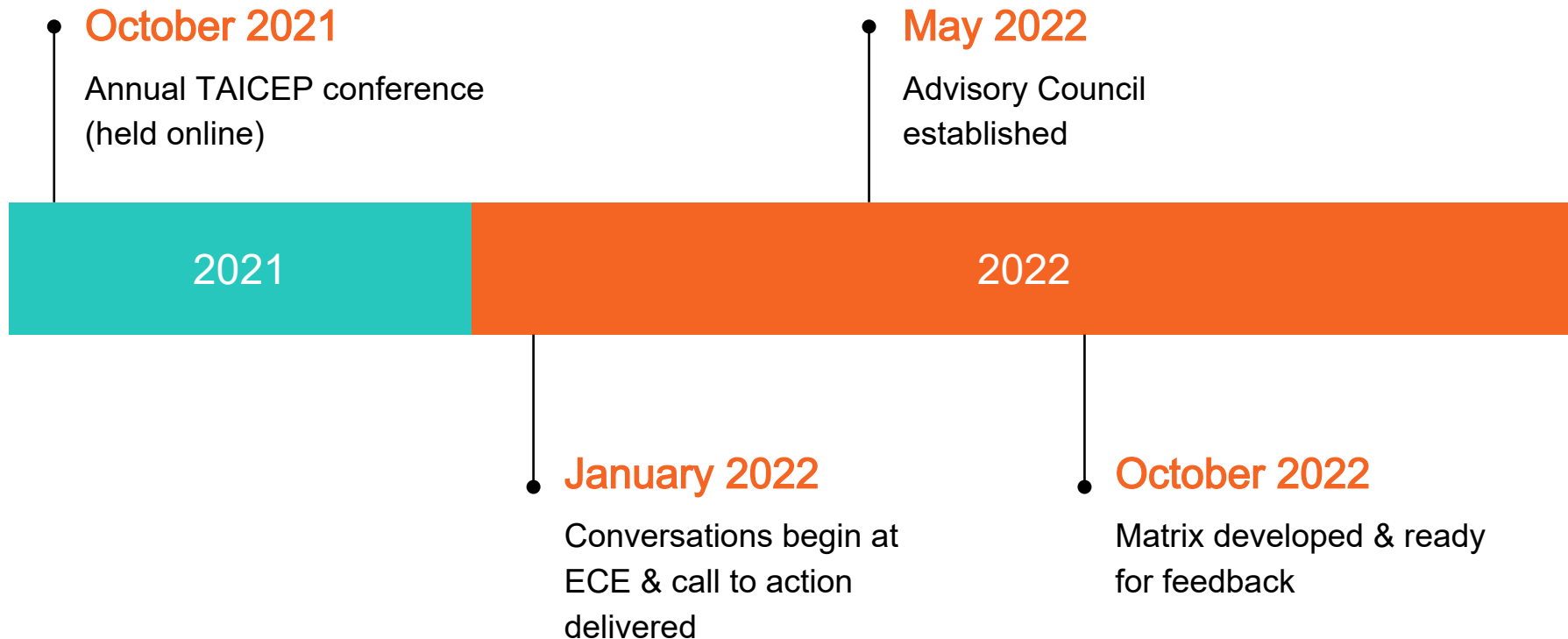
→ **Phase 2**

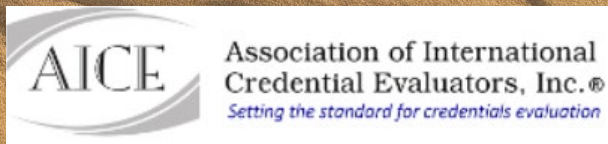
Adoption of the framework

→ **Phase 3**

Maintenance of the framework

Milestones





Meet the Advisory Council

The original members of the Advisory Council include participants from the following entities:

- [AACRAO](#)
- [Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. \(AICE\)](#)
- [Credential Engine](#)
- [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce](#)
- [Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc \(ECE\)](#)
- [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#)
- [National Student Clearinghouse](#)

Where are we now?

USQF Matrix Draft
developed and
ready for
feedback.

Testing and
implementation
with additional
stakeholders
needed.

As Phase I nears
completion, we
will begin moving
on to Phase II.

Meet the USQF

Draft USQF with 9 levels, based on current analysis of former research.

USQF Levels	Qualification	Description	Program	Vocational
9	Doctoral		Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)	
8	Master		Master of Arts, Science, Fine Arts, etc.	
7	Professional Doctorate	First professional degrees	Doctor of Medicine Doctor of Dentistry Doctor of Optometry Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Juris Doctorate Pharm.D. Master of Divinity	
6	Post-Baccalaureate	Additional undergraduate study in a different field of study	Post-graduate / Post-bachelor's certificates (e.g., teaching credential)	
6	Bachelor	4–5 year, first degree	Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Science Degree	
5	Associate	2-3 years, post-secondary vocational, science or arts programs	Associate of Arts Associate of Science Degree	Associate of Applied Sciences degree in a technical or applied field
4	Post-Secondary non-tertiary	Short-term academic programs in business, health, trades, Cosmetology	Certificate Diploma Occupational-specific vocational certificate	Post-secondary vocational Apprenticeship, e.g., electrician, plumber, carpenter Certificate/diploma
3	Secondary/High School	4 year	High school diploma High School Equivalency Diploma (HiSET) or General Educational Development (GED) Award	Vocational Secondary Tech-prep
2	Middle School			
1	Kindergarten-Elementary			
0	Early Childhood Education	Preschool/Pre-K		



Join us!

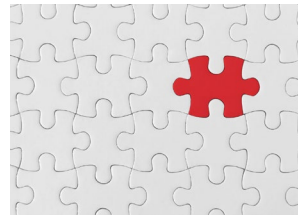
We hope you'll join us in this exciting and necessary endeavor.

For more information or to become involved,
email USQFProject@ece.org

Presenters:

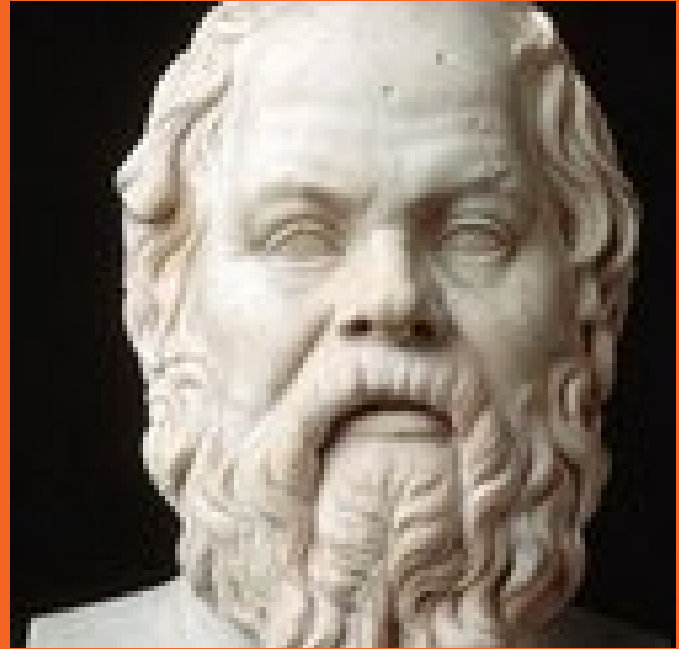
margit@ece.org

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**“You don’t know what
you don’t know.”**

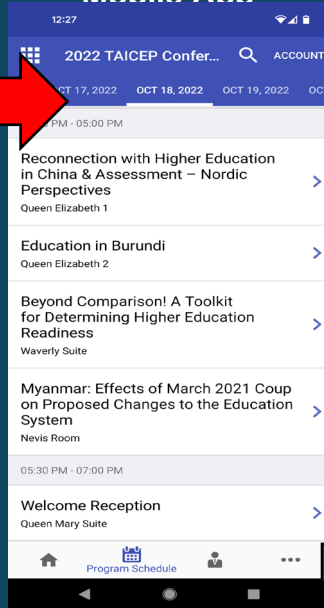
-Socrates



Please Complete a Session Survey

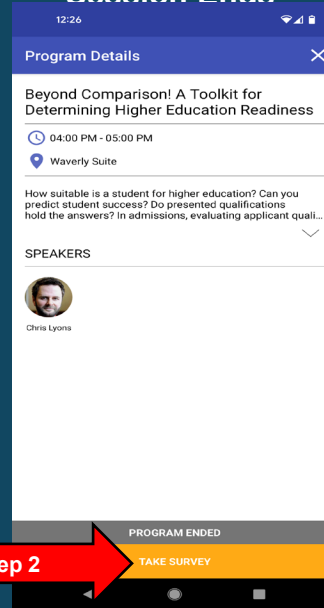
Open Session
Details in the
Website or
Mobile App

Step 1



“Take Survey”
Button Available 10
Minutes Before
Session Ends

Step 2



“Submit” (Then...go
find coffee!)

Step 3

