Skillsoft Launches New Assessment Capability in Percipio to Accelerate Critical Skill Mastery and Close Enterprise Skill Gaps

Skill Benchmark Assessments brings unique approach to measuring learners' skill proficiency and providing personalized development paths

BOSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Skillsoft (NYSE: SKIL), a global leader in corporate digital learning, today announced the launch of Skill Benchmark Assessments, a new capability within the company's immersive learning platform, Percipio, that enables organizations to determine their learners' proficiency across the most in-demand technology, leadership, and business skills and deliver personalized development paths to expedite skill mastery.

New research found that 83 percent of organizations are reporting skill gaps in their workforce. As the rate of digital transformation intensifies, gaps in technology-related skills are especially pertinent, with three out of four IT decision makers citing this as a critical challenge – a 145 percent increase since 2016. Providing employees with opportunities for continuous professional development in the workplace is essential for combatting this issue. However, before training begins, organizations must first be able to accurately assess learners' skill levels and deliver relevant content that aligns to their readiness and goals.

Skill Benchmark Assessments takes an innovative, criterion-based approach to assessing skill proficiency. While traditional, normative-based assessments compare learners' knowledge to the average of other learners, this may not match the level of proficiency each organization requires to be successful. Skillsoft's criterion-based tests measure capabilities against specific objectives defined by leading subject matter experts. This allows organizations and learners to determine if they are objectively proficient in certain skill areas and successfully retaining and applying gained knowledge in the workplace.

Additional key features of Skill Benchmark Assessments include:

- **Skill Benchmark Dashboard:** To diagnose where skill gaps exist across an organization and set a path forward to close them, admins and managers can view scores and levels for individual learners and teams. Subsequently, they can assign specific Benchmark Assessments and training courses that connect learners to careers and competencies that have been prioritized for growth and innovation.
- **The assessment experience:** After answering curated question sets aligned to specific skills, learners are assigned a Benchmark score. Based on this and with Percipio's blended learning model, they will then receive personalized recommendations that include microlearning lessons, hands-on practice labs, instructor-led training (ILT), and longer-form curricula, such as Aspire Journeys, to

enhance and deepen their skillsets.

"Amidst the Great Resignation, employees have made it clear they want to learn. However, time limitations, irrelevant content, and difficulty knowing where to start often hinder what should be positive journeys of self-development," said Apratim Purakayastha, Chief Technology Officer, Skillsoft. "An effective path of learning ultimately comes down to the experience. With Skill Benchmark Assessments, as well as our recently released Percipio app for Microsoft Teams, we're taking the guesswork out of where training should begin and delivering, high-quality, personalized skill development within learners' natural flow of work. This ultimately leads to future-fit workforces prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

"The skills a business needs to succeed are changing, and the tight labor market makes hiring for skills expensive and slow. This puts a premium on effective enterprise skilling initiatives tied to important business objectives. To be effective, organizations need more insight into the skills their workforce has now and the progress their employees are making towards achieving the skills they need," said Cushing Anderson, Program Vice President, IT Education and Certification, IDC. "Through its skill assessments, Skillsoft is empowering learners to reduce time to achieving their learning goals and providing essential visibility into the current skills of employees and the success of enterprise skilling initiatives. These insights will help the entire business, from the C-Suite to line of business managers, HR, learning and development teams, and individual employees, make better business and career decisions."

Skillsoft currently offers hundreds of Benchmark Assessments across a variety of Technology & Developer and Leadership & Business subjects including cloud, security, digital literacy, innovation and creativity, agile methodologies, and performance management. This collection will continue to expand both within these domains and additional areas including analytics, digital marketing, virtual leadership, and problem solving.

For more information about Skill Benchmark Assessments, visit here. Download our Lean Into Learning: 2021 Annual Learning Report here to gain valuable insight into the latest trends in learning and development.

About Skillsoft

Skillsoft (NYSE: SKIL) is a global leader in corporate digital learning, focused on transforming today's workforce for tomorrow's economy. The Company provides enterprise learning solutions designed to prepare organizations for the future of work, overcome critical skill gaps, drive demonstrable behavior-change, and unlock the potential in their people. Skillsoft offers a comprehensive suite of premium, original, and authorized partner content, including one of the broadest and deepest libraries of leadership & business skills, technology & developer, and compliance curricula. With access to a broad spectrum of learning options (including video, audio, books, bootcamps, live events, and practice labs), organizations can meaningfully increase learner engagement and retention. Skillsoft's offerings are delivered through Percipio, its award-winning, AI-driven, immersive learning platform purpose built to make learning easier, more accessible, and more effective. Learn more at www.skillsoft.com.

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