

The mission of the ASCCC OERI (OERI) is to reduce the cost of educational resources for students by expanding the availability and adoption of high-quality Open Educational Resources (OER). The OERI facilitates and coordinates the curation and development of OER texts, ancillaries, and support systems. It also facilitates local OER implementation efforts by offering professional development, technical support, and technical resources.

In 2018, the OERI was funded by the California Legislature in trailer bill language for a total of 5 years. The main goals of the OERI are to:

- Identify gaps in OER availability and barriers to OER adoption;
- Fill gaps in OER availability;
- Address barriers to OER adoption;
- Ensure the existence and sustainability of OER online homework systems;
- Support local OER efforts;
- Advocate for OER within other statewide initiatives;
- Identify and develop OER solutions related to initiatives and legislation; and
- Facilitate OER adaptation and development with technology resources.

Since its inception, the OERI has made significant progress on these goals. A core group of faculty lead the work of the OERI, interacting with faculty across the state to build a community of OER advocates to advance OER across the California community colleges.

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Facilitated the awareness, adoption, and adaptation of OER through the hosting of over 135 general, discipline-specific, and tool-specific webinars that have been attended by over 2100 faculty. In addition, 56 webinars were hosted for local OER advocates (OER Liaisons).
- Identified – and supported - OER Liaisons at each of the colleges to ensure on-going communication between the OERI and local faculty and college colleagues.
- Created a website (asccc-oeri.org) to promote OER and simplify the identification of available OER by providing easy access to OER resources organized by discipline (27 comprehensive collections), general education area, and Transfer Model Curriculum (25).
- Established a team of over 30 Discipline Leads to curate existing OER and facilitate OER awareness and adoption.
- Initiated the formation of discipline-specific communities of practice to support faculty OER efforts.
- Developed a wide array of resources to support OER-related work, including two self-paced courses (OER Basics and Accessibility Basics), a series of OER “Quick Guides” on OER-related topics that can be accessed online or printed for local use, a variety of resources for OER developers, and an ever-expanding collection of resources to support local OER advocacy.
- Supported the creation of 63 new OER over three competitive funding cycles, with an

emphasis on collaboration, meeting state-wide needs, and sustainability.

- Developed a framework for reviewing and revising OER and other course resources to ensure that they are inclusive, diverse, equitable, and anti-racist (the ASCCC OERI IDEA Framework), which will be integrated into future OERI supported projects and used to review and modify existing resources.
- Tracked and supported the implementation of California Education Code 66406.9 that requires the colleges to identify Zero

Textbook Cost (ZTC) course sections in their online course schedules.

- Collaborated with representatives from the California State University and the University of California to host Cal OER, a free OER conference intended to highlight the state's OER/ZTC work and attended by over 400 faculty.
- Developed and piloted an OER/ZTC student impact survey to assess the impact of textbook costs and OER/ZTC materials on California community college students.

The work of the OERI has saved students tens of millions of dollars. The benefits of OER for students extend well beyond cost savings and increasing student access. Research shows that the move to OER improves success and completion rates and closes equity gaps. The training and support provided to faculty by the OERI has helped create a more equitable learning environment for students.

STEPS TO ENSURING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE OERI

- Advocate for sustained and consistent funding to extend the OERI's work.
 - Assist the California Community Colleges Chancellors Office and the ASCCC to implement an OER/ZTC data element that would facilitate data collection and impact assessment moving forward.
 - Maintain collaborations with OER platforms (such as LibreTexts and My Open Math) to ensure faculty can develop accessible and effective resources. The OERI works with the platforms to ensure they meet CCC needs and trains faculty in their use.
 - Fill OER gaps for more CCC courses and programs. As more faculty become aware of OER, more resource needs are identified. The OERI's process for supporting faculty in the creation of OER provides the best ongoing
- strategy for increasing OER adoption and student savings.
 - Continue fostering collaborations across public and private higher education systems and within discipline communities. OERI's effort to build collaborations are necessary for creating lasting change in higher education. As more faculty have become aware of OER, additional collaborations are forming. Support from the OERI is necessary to realize the potential of these collaborations.
 - The work of the OERI has helped initiate the culture shift necessary to realize the full benefit of OER in the California Community Colleges. Additional training and support of local OER experts is necessary to ensure these initial efforts can be scaled and implement locally.

The ongoing work of the OERI is still need and critical to help California's educational system continue to improve student success.

For additional information on the work of the ASCCC OERI, contact the OERI (oeri@asccc.org) or visit the ASCCC OERI website. (asccc-oeri.org)