

TEXTBOOK AFFORDABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

All that you need to know about OER, ZTC, Inclusive Access, and other ways to provide excellent resources for our courses--that don't cost an arm and a leg!



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NEWS FROM ASCCC

- Upcoming OERI Webinars (all dates are Thursdays, 1 pm; all webinars are archived on the OERI site)
 - OER and Child Development/Early Childhood Education: Friday, May 7, 9:15 am - 10:15 am
 - LibGuides, Discovery Tools, and Websites: How to Make OER Discoverable: Friday, May 7, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
 - OER and Biology: Friday, May 14, 10:30am - 11:30 am
 - OER for English and Literature: Friday, May 14, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
 - OER and Geography/Physical Sciences: Friday, May 21, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
 - Open Forum: Friday, May 28, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
- ASCCC OERI Canvas Site and the OERI Website have more information on all of these topics, and more.



More on the next page about the latest from OERI and the Spring Plenary!



ASCCC Spring Plenary and OERI

- Round 3 of OER Proposals has closed, under review. Funded projects will be announced early May. The focus this time around is on disciplines that have had little coverage in OER, as well as ancillary materials and test banks for those resources that already exist. Projects should come out in Fall 2021. The Round 2 projects should be published this summer; more information in our next newsletter!
- Spring Plenary OERI Resolutions: There were 5 resolutions that the OERI proposed, and all of them passed. A summary of the resolutions is as follows--and these are pieces that Cañada and SMCCCD are already involved in (we're ahead of the game!):
 - 9.05 (with proposed amendments) Develop an Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Curriculum Audit Process: The resolution focused specifically on the creation of an anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion audit for use by the OERI on the OER supported by the initiative.
 - 11.02 Advocate for Development of a ZTC Data Element: This resolution proposes the introduction of a section-level data element to document the nature of the costs associated with the resources used for a given course section, elevating the identification of a resource as zero textbook cost (ZTC) or no-cost to an institutional concern. This resolution adds an additional section data element that would initially be optional and, eventually, be required as a mechanism for tracking efforts to reduce the cost of course resources.
 - 13.01 Institutionalizing Open Educational Resources: A common discussion the OERI has with OER Liaisons and other OER advocates is how to ensure that current OER efforts continue. This resolution encourages local senates to identify ways to do this – and tasks the ASCCC with developing resources to support such efforts.
 - 11.03 Advocate for On-Going Funding for the ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative: As the OERI only has five years of funding, advocacy to ensure that funding continues beyond the 5-year period needs to begin in earnest now. This resolution formalizes these advocacy efforts.
 - 11.04 Ensure Compliance with Required Instructional Materials Regulations: This resolution serves to remind the field of our obligation to keep costs for our students down and to ensure that we are not asking students to purchase things that they do not need – or that merely support administrative functions.

Focus Topic: OER and Equity

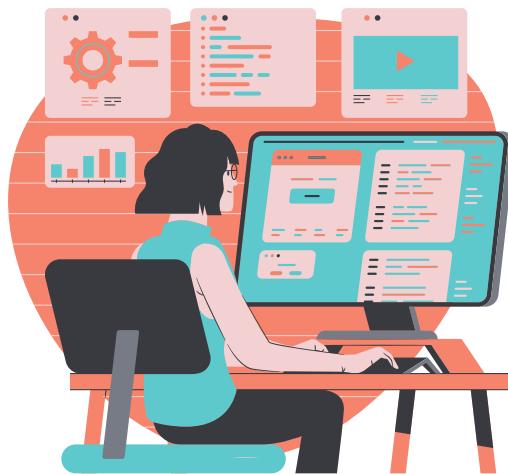


One of the topics that has resonated clearly with everyone--students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members--is that the cost of course materials is an equity issue. It has been for a very long time, but it is lately getting more attention than ever before. This is great news for the OER community and for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) community--we work together to ensure that our students have their needs met in as many ways as possible.

In that vein, there have been a number of blog posts, articles, and webinars on how the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and courses that are marked as Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) can and do address all of these anti-racism and equity-minded efforts, both locally, regionally, and nationally. If you are at all interested, check out these resources.

- The Open for AntiRacism (OFAR) program hosted a webinar, offered by Dr. Frank Harris III, Education Professor, Community College Equity Assessment Lab (CCEAL) at San Diego State University. The focus on the talk was on employing equity-minded and culturally-affirming teaching and learning practices as a way to advance institutional equity. This webinar is one of many that CCC-OER has been hosting this year with DEI as a focus.
- OER Advocate Barbara Illowsky and AAC&U's CIO C. Edward Watson wrote a blog for the AAC&U's site on the importance of advocating for OER as tools for affordability in equity. It's a powerful testimony to Barbara's work when she was teaching at De Anza College, as well as the efforts that the University of George have been doing--in both cases, how OpenStax in particular have had a powerful impact on STEM courses (and elsewhere) for our students.
- OpenOregon has long hosted webinars on OER and ZTC, but this year has had a particular focus on equity-minded topics. Their archive showcases topics that range from policy to student-centered pedagogy to examples of collaboration across the disciplines.

As you think about your courses and your programs with an equity lens, perhaps some of these resources might help you consider how OER and ZTC can play a factor in your redesigns. If you need help in finding resources, please reach out to Sarah Harmon, OER/ZTC Coordinator.



The State of OER/ZTC at Cañada

So much has happened in the last few months! We have been busy trying to spread the word on our efforts and include as many as we can in this movement.

April Board Report

Following up on our successful Open Education Week in March, we used the information gleaned from the student and faculty surveys to inform our Board Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees. This report highlighted all the work that we as a district and as a college have done...and the important goals that we want to accomplish. This report also allowed us to connect with Trustee Lisa Petrides, the Founder and CEO of ISKME and OER Commons. We also got a large amount of support from Trustee John Pimentel in his efforts for 'Free College' measures, and from President Nuris. Overall, numerous administrators, faculty, staff, students, and members of the public heard about our efforts, and there is great interest in supporting this work.

Cañada Early Adopter Program--A Proposal

Following the Board Report, work has also begun on how to take this momentum and carry it forward. To that end, the TAS has decided to take the Skyline Early Adopters Program and do our version of it. It will be scaled down a bit--as of now we don't have the funds to support Remixing or Authoring--to focus at first on adoption awards. At the 13 May Academic Senate Governance Council meeting the proposal will be submitted, with the hope of supporting 3-5 faculty in fall semester and in spring semester. If passed, then we will work towards supporting these faculty in the coming academic year. Stay tuned for more information come August!

Other OER News

There has been much ado about the 2021-2022 California Budget, and Governor Newsom's specific comments on the need for California Community Colleges to be a focal point in educating all Californians, as well as about the high cost of course materials and the impact that it has on our students. In his initial budget in January, there is a section on Zero-Textbook-Cost Degrees (also known as Z-Degrees) and the support of the use of OER for ZTC-labeled courses. The proposal in the budget has a \$15 Million one-time allocation for the California Community Colleges to create more Z-Degrees, creating grants of \$200,000 much the way that the 2016-2017 initiative did. That is a significant amount of money, and we know the impact of those grants; Skyline College was awarded one of those grants, and their ZTC program is robust and has been institutionalized.

This proposal is being lauded and supported by a large number of groups, including the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Michelson 20MM Foundation. The cost of textbooks has even made news; the Fresno Bee ran an article in March on the impact of course material costs and how OERs are making a significant impact--and then that article got picked up around the state and around the country. This is a timely topic--and a huge topic, news-wise.

At the time of this writing, we don't know yet the status of this proposal in the 2021-2022 budget; the May Revise hasn't yet been released. Rest assured that if this piece of the budget does stay in and get funded at this amount, Cañada's Textbook Affordability Subcommittee will be right there looking for faculty who would want to work on a proposal for the grant. Stay tuned, folks!





Latest OER Publications

Some of the latest titles that have come out in the last couple of months:

- An Interactive Introduction to Organismal and Molecular Biology by Andrea Bierema (Michigan State University Press)
- CLUE (Chemistry, Life, Universe, and Everything) by Melanie Cooper and Michael Klymkowsky (Michigan State University Press)
- OCLUE (Organic Chemistry, Life, Universe, and Everything) by Melanie Cooper and Michael Klymkowsky (Michigan State University Press)
- From Growing to Biology: Plants, by Dr. Gokhan Hacisalihoglu (Florida A&M University)

Here are some other resources that ISKME recently announced:

- We The People Hub. The U.S. Capitol Historical Society
- Engaging Students Regarding Events at U.S. Capitol. Washington State's Office of Public Instruction's Social Studies and Social Emotional Learning
- School Counsel(l)ors from Across the World Group
- Coronavirus Simulator Thomas Riisgaard Hansen, Kite Invent og Aarhus Universitet designed

More at ISKME's blog post: [Rapidly Responding with Relevant OER Over the Past Year](#)

You can also check out the ASCCC OER Initiative's list of databases, which includes links to OpenStax, LibreText, MERLOT, and so many more. Their discipline-specific list (on the CCC Canvas page) has multiple resources for many disciplines, along with C-ID connected courses.



IDEA OF THE MONTH

Summer Projects and Looking for Alternatives

Many faculty use the summer to revisit their curriculum and make adjustments for the upcoming year. As you do that reflection and investigation, we suggest incorporating OERs into the mix, perhaps even going fully ZTC in your course materials.

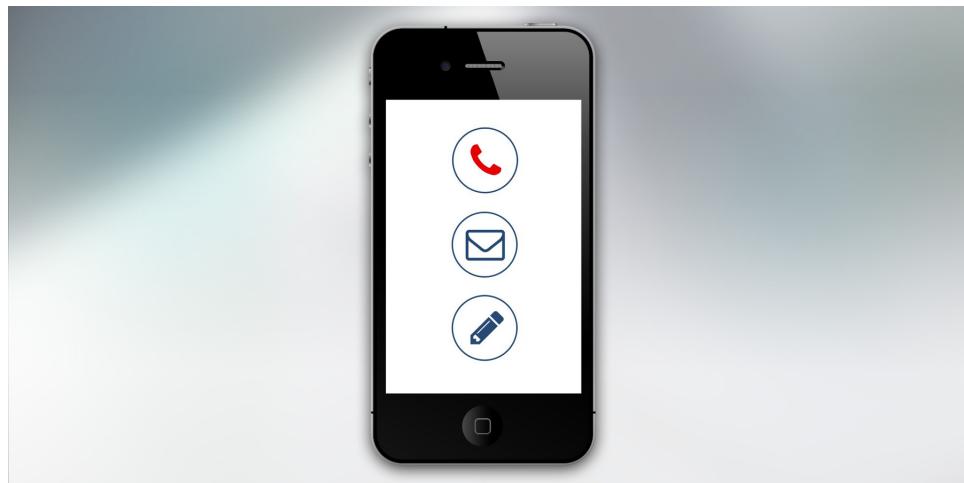
Sarah will be working this summer on ZTC projects, and can help you find resources that pique your interest. Some of our librarians will also be around to help out. Use our online resources, as well as Skyline's--we can help you find what you're looking for!



Next meeting of the Subcommittee: in the Fall!

Check back on our website in August for more information.

Email Sarah Harmon (harmons@smccd.edu) for the link. Come join us!



CONTACT US!

Want to know more about Open Educational Resources and Zero Textbook Cost courses? Go to the TAS website for more information.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Frustrations?
Let Sarah know! (harmons@smccd.edu)

Thanks for reading!

The Textbook Affordability Subcommitte are:

- Nick DeMello, Online Education Coordinator; Chemistry Faculty
- Valeria Estrada, Librarian, ASLT Representative
- Sarah Harmon, OER Coordinator/AS OER Liaison; Spanish and Linguistics Faculty
- Allison Hughes, Instructional Technologist
- Ramki Kalyanaraman, Engineering Faculty, Science and Technology Representative
- Jai Kumar, Bookstore Manager
- David Reed, Dean of Academic Services and Learning Technologies
- Diana Tedone-Goldstone, Librarian

