

Equity From the Start: Utilizing HEERF (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds) for OER

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Contra Costa Community College District

Contra Costa Community College District



 **CONTRA COSTA COLLEGE**



DVC DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE



**LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE**

- Located in Contra Costa County, East Bay Area
- Multi-college district, 3 colleges, 2 centers
- Diverse student population of about 50,000

Joining Forces for OER

Prior to 2018, vibrant program at Los Medanos College, funded by ZTC grant, with 2 champions.

Districtwide grant from LibreTexts late 2018 provided impetus for other campuses.

Diablo Valley College formed a committee and core group of engaged faculty, but needed stronger faculty champion to thrive. Refocused in 2020 with new champion.

Contra Costa College had no appointed lead with major transitions at college. Reenergized in late 2020 with new coordinator.

Held regional conference in 2019, and districtwide OER symposium virtually in 2021.





Students spoke out at OER forum

Clockwise from top left:

'Some of my friends have to either buy books or groceries. I share mine with them'. Vanessa, CCC



'For my math, physics and computer science, it's always a struggle to find a classmate who has a free .pdf of the textbooks'. - Subisha, DVC



'To succeed, we need the textbooks from the get go.' Blanca, CCC



'You can spend so much money on a textbook, and then you use so little of it.' - Andrew, DVC

'Sometimes they don't have the funds to buy textbooks so they don't go to class or they have to drop a class.' Thyra, LMC

4CD Districtwide Committee

No longer ad hoc DE subgroup.

Official council with charge, approved by Chancellor and Cabinet.

Now have established, institutionalized districtwide group, with a voice, and funding.

In 2021, formed Districtwide OER Council.



ZTC course badging, LibreText Grant, Districtwide events

Institution-level support: Associated Students resolution;
Academic Senate resolution

Created OER work group (Fall 2021 - To become a
standing subcommittee of the Academic Senate)

Cross-disciplinary outreach, including Career Education

DVC Library involvement – resource and grant discovery,
copyright consultations

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II

Contra Costa College	\$10,939,000
Diablo Valley College	\$24,804,000
Los Medanos College	\$15,148,000

Allowable uses:

- Increased costs from declining enrollment and efforts to mitigate declines;
- Student support activities authorized by HEA that address needs related to COVID-19

Proposal goals:

- Integrate OER into professional development
- 15% increase in ZTC sections
- Compensate coordinators and librarians
- Advance research on equitable student success
- Embed OER in college governance structure
- Grow awareness of OER as a proven equity strategy

Proposal: bit.ly/DVC_heerf



\$257,500 program funding for OER@DVC

- 6 week professional development course
- FA21: 42 faculty participants, converting 90 new ZTC sections
- \$294,900 anticipated student savings per semester
- Funding for OER Co-coordinators, librarians, disability support services staff
- District-wide research dashboard

More details: <https://www.dvc.edu/academics/online-education/Open-Educational-Resources.html>

OER@DVC Professional Development Training

- Understanding open
- Antiracism and open education
- Finding and using OER
- Adapting and creating OER
- Universal design benefits all users
- Next steps: ZTC Action Plan

The logo for Diablo Valley College (DVC) features the letters 'DVC' in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font. A thin, light green line arches over the letters, starting from the top left, curving over the 'D' and 'V', and ending at the top right.

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Takeaways

- Timing- it's still the right time!
- Link to existing professional development offerings
- Collaboration across District
- Link funding pitch to district priorities: pandemic response, equity, & enrollment

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE



 **Link to video:** <https://youtu.be/CMiSassiinA>



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Background

- No OER Coordinator until last year
- Student [Textbook Affordability Survey data](#)
- Passed [Associated Student Union Resolution](#) and [Faculty Senate Resolution](#).



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Student Racial Demographics

Latinx 43%

Black 17%

Asian 14%

White 12%

Filipino 6%

Multiracial 6%

Race unknown 2%

Pacific Islander .4%

Native American .2%



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Currently

- OER and ZTC Committee is now a standing subcommittee of the Senate
- Response to our [African American Staff Association's Call to Action](#) (#17 & 18) to diversify our curricula
- Developing student and faculty resources



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- Added to [our HEERF proposal](#) (\$212,000 approved): compensation for departmental collaborations and an OER Librarian
- Partnering with students – resolution, AB 1359, webpage
- Working with Guided Pathways to build out ZTC pathways
- Including [no-cost textbooks in marketing](#)



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Success and Retention Data (Fall 2020)

Metric	ZTC Courses	Non-ZTC Courses	Difference
Success	82%	70%	12%
Retention	95%	86%	9%



Takeaways

- Institutionalize OER and ZTC
- Student data to entice faculty and when seeking funding
- OER as a vehicle for DEI and antiracist curriculum
- Compensate faculty and OER-related positions

Next steps at 4CD

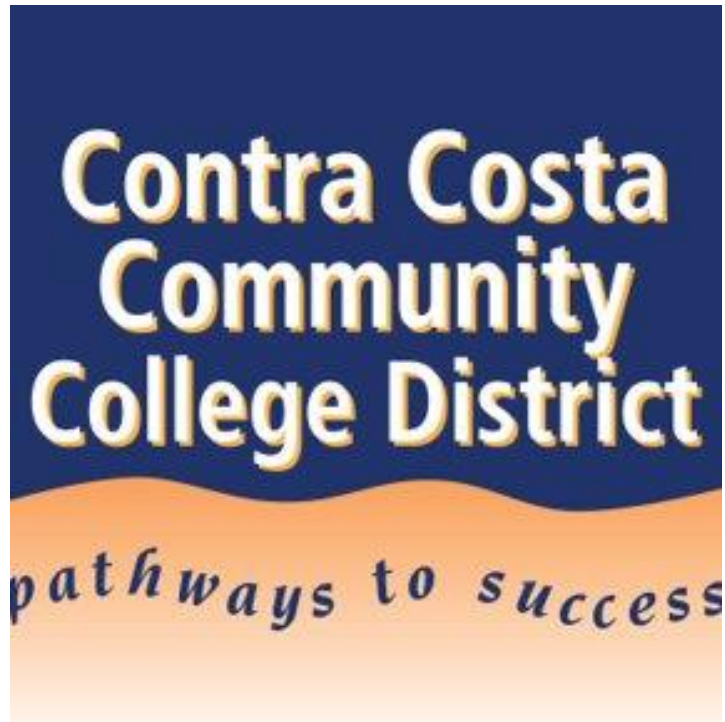
Application for state OER/ZTC funding when available

Accessibility in OER materials

Equity in OER materials

Improve OER-related processes for faculty buy-in and student awareness

Continued collaboration for amplified voice, greater funding opportunities, equity for students



Questions?

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