



ASCCC OERI OER Liaison Newsletter – Happy Holidays!

If you are not already on break and ignoring your email, we hope you will be soon. Before we take some time off, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for all of your hard work this past term. And it has been a very long term – beginning with the publication of the initial ZTC Acceleration Grant application in August and ending with the OERI's request for information from all of the colleges participating in Collaboration Cohorts. While we knew such a late request was a lot to ask, your response has been incredible. We will be monitoring email and the [ASCCC OERI's ZTC Collaboration Cohort Data Submission Dropbox](#) throughout the break. If you are looking for information about the cohort process, please see the [ZTC Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort Information](#) page or go to tinyurl.com/ZTCCohorts. Any information you are able to provide by the December 22 deadline will assist us in planning for the term ahead.

Please read on for answers to some commonly asked ZTC-related questions – and a preview of the year ahead.

• OER Liaison Expectations – Spring 2024 •

Your Spring 2024 OER Liaisons (OERL) activities need to be completed and documented by Friday, May 10, 2024. Activities should be logged throughout the term on the [Spring 2024 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet](#). (tinyurl.com/OERL-2024S).

The expectations of OERLs for the current term are as follows:

1. Attend an OER Liaison Spring 2024 Kick-Off, live or archived, by March 15. All will be delivered via Zoom. Attendance at a live session is encouraged. New, or newer, OERLs are also invited to view the Spring 2024 New OERL Kick-Off which will be available by the end of January.
 - [Register for Wednesday, February 7, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm Kickoff](#)
 - [Register for Friday, February 9, 10:30 am - 11:30 am Kickoff](#)
 - [Register for Tuesday, February 20, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Kickoff](#)
 - [Register for Thursday, February 22, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm Kickoff](#)
 - [Register for Monday, February 26, 10:00 am - 11:00 am Kickoff](#)
 - [Register for Friday, March 1, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Kickoff](#)
2. Attend two additional OERI or OERL Events (Webinars or Conversations) during the term, or host one. OERLs who are interested in hosting an event

- should discuss this with their Regional Lead as soon as possible.
3. Communicate with your local senate and faculty regarding the work of the OERI.
 4. Forward the OERI Newsletter broadly to interested parties at your college and reach out to specific faculty and departments as warranted.
 5. Check-in at least twice with an OERI representative to share local needs and issues.

• ZTC Collaboration Cohort Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) •

On November 30, the Chancellor's Office sent a message out answering many of the questions colleges were asking about the Collaboration Cohorts. These FAQs are available at [Collaboration Cohort FAQs from November 30, 2023](#). In addition, the OERI received the following clarifications:

1. If the pathway that is the focus of a college's Implementation Grant is part of a Collaboration Cohort, can that college opt to participate in the cohort process?

All colleges that have Implementation Grant plans will be contacted and asked to, at minimum, come to the respective Collaboration Cohorts and share out their current status. Any opportunities to collaborate or obtain resources from the other participating colleges are welcomed and encouraged.

2. If a college was fully awarded an Acceleration Grant for a discipline that is now part of a Collaboration Cohort, what is being done to prevent the work of that college from being duplicative of the work being done by the members of the cohort?

The colleges in this situation work just like the Implementation Grant colleges. They will be asked to come to the cohort, to share out their ZTC resources, and can also glean from opportunities to collaborate or obtain resources from the other participating colleges. However, the majority of "early award" colleges were asked to work in informal collaboration with other colleges without formal OERI facilitation.

3. If a college determines that they no longer want to do the work they proposed after participating in a Collaboration Cohort, are there any consequences?

A college goes to the cohort(s) in good faith to complete the program pathway that was originally submitted in NOVA with signed assurances. Most likely, a college will only need to work on a select number of course textbooks and can gauge their level of involvement in the cohort accordingly. A college might be required to return funds if a completed ZTC program pathway is not developed and implemented by Fall 2026. If issues arise concerning ongoing participation in collaboration cohorts or meet completion timelines due to unique circumstances at your college, please reach out to the Chancellor's Office.

4.If a college determines that they no longer want to do the work they proposed after participating in a Collaboration Cohort because they want to wait and use the resources developed by others, are there any consequences? In this instance, the college does still intend to establish the ZTC pathway but they may not be able to do so by Fall 2026.

If a college reviews the cohort workplan and determines that they will adopt the efforts of other colleges, then this is fine. However, the college must still have at least some courses available for students in the ZTC pathway by Fall 2026. The goal, of course, is to have all courses in the ZTC program pathway ready by Fall 2026 to begin benefitting students as quickly as possible. If issues arise concerning completion timelines due to unique circumstances at your college, please reach out to the Chancellor's Office

• OER Liaison Events •

Tuesday, January 30, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

OERL Webinar - Budget Basics for OER Liaisons

If you've struggled to understand object codes and budget transfers, or wondered what "allowable expenses" means, this is the webinar for you. Merritt College OER Liaison, Ngheim Thai, who has held administrative, classified, and faculty roles, will go over the basics of developing, understanding, and working with college budgets.

[Register for the OERL Webinar – Budget Basics for OER Liaisons](#)

• End of OERL-Specific Newsletter •

The rest of this newsletter contains content for a general audience, and you are expected to share it with your colleagues, as appropriate. We've provided a sample message that you can use, but feel free to adapt it to your college culture. Please note that if you have not signed up for our general newsletter, you may wish to do so as it can easily be forwarded on with your personalized message added as an introduction.

[Sign up for the ASCCC OERI List Serv.](#)

• Sample Cover Message to Send to Your College •

Greetings! As the Open Educational Resources Liaison for our college, it is my responsibility to share communications from the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI). Please read on to learn about upcoming events and opportunities that are open to all.

If I can assist you as you consider OER for your classes or answer any OER related questions, please let me know.

• OERI Friday Forums •

The OERI Friday Forums will be held from 10:30 am – 11:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, provided there are no scheduling conflicts (e.g., a holiday). All Friday Forum webinars are archived. The ASCCC OERI will provide automated captioning for all webinars. If you would like to request live human closed-captioning for any of our offerings, [please contact us by e-mail](#) at least 10 business days in advance.

OERI Friday Forums are intended for a diverse audience. Please share with your colleagues. We hope you all will join us!

Friday, February 2, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Collaboration Cohorts

In anticipation of the November 15 deadline for submission of ZTC Acceleration Grant applications, the Chancellor's Office began discussing the need to establish a process to bring college representatives together to avoid duplication of effort. What is a Collaboration Cohort, which disciplines will be collaborating within cohorts, and what is expected of participating colleges? Join us for an overview of all that we know about this process – and to ask your questions.

[Register for the ZTC Collaboration Cohorts Webinar](#)

Friday, February 23, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism (IDEA), Open Educational Resources (OER), and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Faculty may find AI a powerful tool when developing OER. However, AI is not always a bias-free resource and faculty must recognize these biases when using AI to create – or adapt – OER. Join us as we explore AI biases and how we might use the IDEA principles to guard against them in our OER work.

[Register for IDEA, OER and AI](#)

• OER Basics Series •

The OERI is pleased to offer a series of webinars addressing the foundations of using, adapting, and developing OER to support your local ZTC work.

Thursday, February 1, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Understanding Open Educational Resources (OER), Copyright, and Fair Use

Are you new to OER and interested in learning more? This webinar is an introduction to what OER is and the difference between "open" and "free" resources, copyright basics, and the concept of fair use.

[Register for Understanding OER, Copyright, and Fair Use](#)

Thursday, February 8, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Introduction to Creative Commons Licensing

Understanding Creative Commons licensing is critical when working with open educational resources (OER). In this interactive webinar we'll explore the nuances of the various Creative Commons licenses for when a resource is used, adapted, or created.

[Register for Introduction to Creative Commons Licensing](#)

Thursday, February 15, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Searching for Open Educational Resources (OER)

Looking for OER? This interactive session will cover search strategies for finding OER. Participants will search for resources and leave the webinar with some “go to” sites for locating OER.

[Register for Searching for OER](#)

Thursday, February 22, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Evaluating Open Educational Resources (OER) for Accessibility

Accessibility is not only a legal and ethical requirement, it is central to creating resources that are inclusive and support the education of all learners. In this webinar, we will provide considerations for accessibility and tools for evaluating content.

[Register for Evaluating OER for Accessibility](#)

Thursday, February 29, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Open Educational Resources (OER) Curation and Advanced Licensing

How do you remix and attribute content with different licenses? How are collections and remixes different and why does it matter? This interactive session is intended for those who are familiar with the Creative Commons licenses and would like to expand their understanding. Bring your questions and licensing challenges.

[Register for OER Curation and Advanced Licensing](#)