

ASCCC OERI September 2024 OER Liaison Newsletter

Welcome to the Fall 2024 term and the 2024-2025 academic year. While there were no surprises over the summer, it was a busy one – and the year ahead looks to be as well. We’re looking forward to catching up with you and learning about your OER-related needs and accomplishments.

During the Fall 2024 term OERI’s twice monthly Friday Forum webinars will be on the 1st and the 3rd Friday of the month, from 10:30 am – 11:30 am, with the final Forum of the term – and the year – held on December 6th. As always, you can find registration information on our website and in our monthly newsletters.

• Fall 2024 OER Liaison Kick-offs •

The OERI supports Open Educational Resource Liaisons (OERLs) so that they may serve as advocates by taking an active role in increasing local OER awareness, adoption, and assistance. Each college’s OERL will be eligible for a yearly stipend of \$1,000. OERLs who complete the specified activities for a given term (fall or spring) will receive \$500 after the term’s end upon verification of their eligibility by the OERI. Colleges may appoint more than one OERL, with the duties and stipend divided in a manner deemed appropriate by the local senate. All appointments and exceptions must be confirmed by the local senate president. If you are no longer serving as the OER Liaison for your college, [please let us know](#).

All OER Liaisons are required to attend a Fall 2024 OERL Kick-Off. Live sessions will be delivered via Zoom and you are encouraged to attend this option. Sessions will be recorded and archived for viewing if live attendance is not possible. For a complete list of the OER Liaison expectations, please see the [Fall 2024 OERL Expectations Document on the OERI website](#). As the term progresses, all OER Liaisons will need to document their Fall 2024 OER Liaison “attendance” activities using the [Fall 2024 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet](#) (tinyurl.com/OERL-2024F).

August OERL Kick-offs

- [Register for Thursday, August 22, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Kick-off](#)
- [Register for Wednesday, August 28, 10:30 am – 11:30 am Kick-off](#)

September OERL Kick-offs

- [Register for Monday, September 9, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Kick-off](#)
- [Register for Tuesday, September 17, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Kick-off](#)

October OERL Kick-offs

- [Register for Friday, October 4, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Kick-off](#)

• Annual OER Liaison Survey •

OERI's Annual OER Liaison Survey will be available in early October. As we update this year's survey, we are seeking your input to ensure that we gather beneficial information. What questions would you like to ask your OERL colleagues? What would you like an opportunity to share? [Email us your ideas \(oeri@asccc.org\)](mailto:oeri@asccc.org).

• September 2024 OER Liaison Events •

While these events are intended for OERLs, please invite colleagues to attend any OERL event that would be of broader interest.

Wednesday, September 11, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Making Open Educational Resources (OER) Magic with Student Workers

Discover effective strategies to reduce faculty workload by engaging student workers in various aspects of OER development, from research and content creation to technology integration. This session will also cover how to use grant funds efficiently, ensuring that investments not only support educational goals but also provide valuable work experience for students. Gain practical tips and learn from case studies that demonstrate the successful integration of student workers in OER projects, thereby fostering a collaborative academic environment and optimizing resource allocation.

[Register for Making Open Educational Resources \(OER\) Magic with Student Workers](#)

• XB12 Implementation •

Questions continue to persist about XB12, the section-level data element that is intended to capture information regarding textbook costs and how no-cost sections achieved their no-cost ("ZTC") status. Fortunately, most of the current questions seemed to be a consequence of not viewing the most recent revision of the data element. While efforts have been made to address these questions, on-going confusion is understandable as the data element is misnamed, the various versions of the XB12 definitions are not clearly identified, and a Google search to find the most current version is likely to yield the wrong version. If you are viewing [the most recent revision of the XB12 data element definitions](#), you will see the following in the introduction:

The instructional material definition in Title 5 is more broadly defined; however, for the purpose of this data element, only the cost of course textbooks (including lab manuals) and supplementary materials (including software and homework systems) are to be reported.

And this final note at the end of the document:

Revision: Summer 2024 Added clarifying language distinguishing “course materials” from instructional materials as defined in Title 5

Removed “B - Section uses only no-cost digital instructional material”

Added E, F, G to better distinguish between different types of no-cost instructional materials and to add a category where the section may use a mix of no-cost OER and other course materials

These changes clarify that while the data element is titled “instructional-material-cost”, its scope is limited to textbooks and supplemental materials. This clarification is important as it aligns what is being coded as no-cost with the definition of ZTC used in the context of the ZTC Degree Program and the recommended interpretation of [California Education Code 66406.9](#) (often referred to as “[SB 1359](#)”) that requires the California Community Colleges to “[c]learly highlight, by means that may include a symbol or logo in a conspicuous place on the online campus course schedule, the courses that exclusively use digital course materials that are free of charge to students and may have a low-cost option for print versions.” [The ASCCC’s recommended interpretation of California Education Code 66406.9](#) encourages using the no-cost mark whenever a section has no textbook and supplemental material costs, regardless of how that no-cost status is achieved.

• Marketing OER •

What are you doing to increase awareness of OER (and ZTC) at your college? How do your students know how to find ZTC course sections in your schedule of classes? Looking for an inexpensive and fun way to spread the word? One suggestion to consider is creating bookmarks to spread the message. Inspiration and editable options are available using [Canva](#). See the OERI’s [Marketing OER and ZTC - Bookmark Templates](#) page for more information.



If you have other suggestions to increase OER and ZTC awareness, we would love to hear them. [Please share your local OER/ZTC marketing strategies with the OERI.](#)

• 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 as an OERL, you are automatically signed up for our general newsletter. The general newsletter can easily be forwarded on with your personalized message added as an introduction.

• 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.

• Looking for OER? •

The OERI has provided the following resources for faculty looking for OER:

- [OER by Discipline](#)
- [OER by California State University General Education](#)

- [OER by the California General Education Transfer Curriculum \(Cal-GETC\)](#)
- [OER by Transfer Model Curriculum](#)
- [ASCCC OERI – Identified Gaps in OER Availability](#)

In response to a request from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, the OERI has organized the resources in its curated collections into a single searchable database. Moving forward, this resource will include any identified gaps in OER availability (based on the courses required for Associate Degrees for Transfer and the general education areas of Cal-GETC) and OER being developed at California Community colleges. [Access Open Educational Resources by C-ID](#) to view this new resource.

• Share Your OER/ZTC Successes •

The Michelson 20MM Foundation - in collaboration with the OERI and other California Community College partners - has launched the ZTC Success Story Project! With the goal of educating policy makers and the broader public on the important work being done and its impact on students and faculty, we want to hear from you! From creating a new OER textbook to entire ZTC degree pathways, or sharing personal stories related to ZTC degrees, your experiences are invaluable in shaping the future of the ZTC program and showcasing its success. Let's work together to highlight the amazing impact of our collective efforts! [Access the ZTC Success Story Project](#) to share your story.

• ZTC Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort Updates •

The ZTC Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort work continues into the fall 2024 term. While some of the Collaboration Cohorts were active through the summer, the majority were not, but the OERI is working to facilitate the conclusion of the work of all cohorts and will begin to publish preliminary reports for Cohorts in mid-September.

- Access the status of all cohorts at [ZTC Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort Information](#).
- Access finalized Collaboration Cohort reports at [ZTC Acceleration Grant Collaboration Cohort Outcomes](#).
- As of August 21, 2024, Collaboration Cohort reports are available for the following disciplines:
 - Geology
 - Humanities
 - Philosophy
 - Political Science
 - Social Work and Human Services

• Hitting The Books! OER Happy Hour - Wednesday, August 28 •

The OERI is pleased to share that the [Michelson 20MM Foundation](#), a generous supporter of OER work in California, is hosting a happy hour to connect with OER community members in the Los Angeles area. This is a fantastic opportunity to build our network and be part of a thriving open community in our own backyards. As the academic term begins, 20MM invites you to celebrate past successes, spotlight exciting current projects, and forge meaningful connections across systems of higher education.

Whether you are looking to network with OER practitioners, catch up on the latest OER news, or simply reflect on the summer, please consider attending.

Beverages and light appetizers will be provided. 20MM looks forward to learning how you're leveraging OER this academic year!

Find more information and RSVP at: tinyurl.com/OERHappy

• OERI Events – September OERI Friday Forums •

During the Fall 2024 academic term, the OERI Friday Forums will be held from 10:30 am – 11:30 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. All Friday Forum webinars are recorded and 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, September 6, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Open Educational Resources (OER) to Support Student Learning

Employing AI to create ancillary resources for OER is one of the many ways that generative AI can support both teaching and learning. While many faculty have experimented with free AI tools, many have not had the opportunity to investigate the more sophisticated tools that are not freely available. To maximize the potential of AI, what should you keep in mind when selecting such tools? Join us to explore the practical considerations for evaluating and selecting AI tools as well as view demonstrations on how to use AI to develop ancillary resources.

[Register for Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Open Educational Resources \(OER\) to Support Student Learning](#)

Friday, September 20, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Fall 2024 Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Program – An Overview and Update

A year ago, colleges were determining how to use the funds they received from the Implementation Grant as well as rushing to identify ZTC pathways to apply for the Acceleration Grants that had recently been made available by the Chancellor's Office. Today, local ZTC leads are focused on ensuring that the ZTC pathways supported by Implementation Grant funds are available to students by the Fall 2025 deadline and that they meet the Fall 2026 deadline for pathways funded with Acceleration Grants. In addition to engaging in activities to facilitate ZTC pathway development, local ZTC leads are also asking questions about the reporting requirements associated with the receipt of funds and how new OER developed with ZTC funds will be shared. What information will be needed for the December 2024 ZTC reporting and expenditure progress reports? How will COOL4Ed be used to share resources? Join us to find out the latest on all of these topics – and to ask your questions.

[Register for Fall 2024 Zero Textbook Cost \(ZTC\) Program – An Overview and Update](#)