OER OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE

ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ASCCC OERI April 2025 OER Liaison Newsletter

Greetings! Much is happening with the OERI as we move into the second half of the term. We've added several new Discipline Leads since last month and will introduce them later in this newsletter. As noted in previous messages, we are always open to considering additional disciplines – so please encourage faculty at your college to complete our application process. We will also be expanding our OERI leadership team for 2025 – 2026 by increasing support for our growing team of Discipline Leads and identifying new Regional Leads for Areas C and D. If you are interested in working with the OERI to implement statewide OER efforts, we're interested in working with you. Learn more about the OERI Regional Lead role. Finally, note that both of this month's Friday Forums are potentially of interest to a broader audience than usual – please be sure to share the invitation as appropriate.

• Spring 2025 OER Liaison Expectations and Activity Tracking •

For a complete list of the OER Liaison expectations, please see the Spring 2025 OERL Expectations Document on the OERI website. As the term progresses, all OER Liaisons will need to document their Spring 2025 OER Liaison "attendance" activities using the Spring 2025 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet (tinyurl.com/OERL-2025S). All OERL Kickoffs have concluded. If you were not able to attend a kickoff, the recording and presentation slides are archived under the "OER Liaison" tab of the OERI website.

• Creative Commons Online Certificate Course – June 2 – August 10 •

Creative Commons (CC) is dedicated to helping build and sustain a thriving commons of shared knowledge and culture with the global standard of open licenses. Through workshops, consulting, and its CC Certificate programs, CC helps people develop open licensing expertise and a deeper understanding of recommended open practices. CC also helps institutions develop and implement open licensing policies and practices for open education, open culture, open science, open data, open governance, and more.

The CC Certificate for Educators course provides an in-depth consideration of CC licenses, open practices, and the ethos of sharing in our global, digital commons. Upon

completion of the course, participants report becoming their institutions' contact for open licensing work; creating OER courses, workshops, and instructional resources; and successfully implementing open policies and grant requirements.

The California Virtual Campus is pleased to offer 20 remaining seats in the upcoming CC Certificate course, starting June 2 and ending August 10. Learn more:
See what course participants are saying
Review an example syllabus
Peruse the CC Certificate course readings
Register for a June CC Certificate course today.

• Project Management Resources •

The project management course announced last month will be available in May. This month, we are pleased to share a related webinar – please see this month's OER Liaison events for more information.

• OER Adoption Data Collection Efforts •

We need your help! The OERI has established a simple mechanism for any faculty member to report an OER adoption so that we may gather adoption and minor adaptation data as a component of the ZTC reporting. To report the adoption of a specific resource, please navigate to the relevant discipline collection or search for the resource in our OER by C-ID table. Each textbook equivalent has a button that leads to a brief form.

Please share this information with all faculty at your college to help us in our data collection efforts.

• April 2025 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, April 2, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Aesthetically Enhance your Open Educational Resources (OER) in Canvas
Discover how AI can elevate the visual appeal and accessibility of your OER in Canvas. This webinar will explore AI-powered tools that can be used to design engaging course materials, improve readability, and enhance student interaction. Learn practical strategies to create visually compelling, user-friendly OER that support diverse learners.
Register for Using AI to Aesthetically Enhance your OER in Canvas

Thursday, April 17, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Administrative Procedures (APs) and Board Policies (BPs): Creating and Implementing APs and BPs for Open Educational Resources (OER) Sustainability

Demystify APs and BPs in this webinar created specifically for OERLs. Presenters will discuss the difference and provide concrete strategies for creating and implementing OER and ZTC supportive AP and BP at your college.

[Register for APs and BPs: Creating and Implementing Administrative Procedures and Board Policies for OER Sustainability](#)

Friday, April 18, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Project Management Basics: Planning your Open Educational Resources (OER) Project
Completing an OER project is a big task! In this webinar we will share resources and strategies for creating a plan and completing a successful project. These resources can help both the OER creator and anyone who is overseeing OER projects for others.
[Register for Project Management Basics: Planning your Open Educational Resources Project](#)

Tuesday, April 22, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Building Community with Open Educational Resources (OER): Collaborative Course Design and Faculty Partnerships
Discover how OER can foster collaboration among faculty to create high-quality, shared course materials that benefit both educators and students. This webinar will explore strategies for co-developing OER, building cross-institutional partnerships, and streamlining resource-sharing efforts. Learn how working together can enhance course design, reduce workload, and improve student access to engaging, affordable learning materials.
[Register for Building Community with OER: Collaborative Course Design and Faculty Partnerships](#)

• 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.

• ASCCC OERI Regional Meetings - Introduction to Remixing and Open Homework Systems •

The OERI, in collaboration with De Anza College and East Los Angeles College, is pleased to announce regional professional development opportunities for those who intend to remix open educational resources in the LibreTexts platform and create openly-licensed assessments. Those who support this work are also invited to attend.

Attendees of these in-person events will be introduced to - and actively interact with - LibreTexts, the LibreTexts Remixer, and the ADAPT Open Homework System.

Registration is now open. A light breakfast will be served, and lunch will be provided. To defray costs, a registration fee of $25 will be charged. Space is limited.

Register for Friday, May 16, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm OERI Regional at De Anza College

Register for Saturday, May 17, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm OERI Regional at East Los Angeles College

• Student Fellows Opportunity •

The Michelson 20MM Foundation is looking for student leaders who are passionate about breaking barriers to education and finding solutions to systemic injustices to join its 2025 Fellowship Cohort. Student fellows will be identified for each of the Foundation's issue areas: Student Basic Needs, Textbook Affordability, Justice Reform, Digital Equity, and Intellectual Property.

As a Fellow, students will use organizing, research, and direct advocacy to build the movement for equity in higher education. Participating students are paired with issue area experts for one-on-one mentorship as they build their fellowship project. Fellows will be provided with several training elements, professional development, hourly pay, and sponsored conference attendance/presentation opportunities. The deadline to apply is May 6th, 2025. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Read more about the Fellowship and access the application.

As described on the Michelson 20MM website, the "Michelson 20MM Foundation is a private, nonprofit foundation with an eye on equity and an expertise in education. We believe that higher education and employment opportunities should be available to all. Barriers such as the price of textbooks, cost of tuition, familial obligations, and history with the justice system can—and must—be overcome in order for our communities to fully thrive."

If you have any questions about the opportunity, please feel free to reach out to the Student Engagement Coordinator, Marissa Martinez,.

• New Open Educational Resources (OER) •

Introduction to African American Studies: An Anthology of Essays on Radical Black Thought, Intellect, and Culture
[Introduction to African American Studies](#) is a groundbreaking Open Educational Resource (OER) that provides a comprehensive and interdisciplinary exploration of Black Studies. Drawing from Africana Studies, Black Feminism/Womanism, Black Psychology, and Cultural Studies, this anthology amplifies the voices of activists, scholars, artists, and clinicians working to challenge anti-Blackness and reclaim the intellectual traditions of Afrikan American communities. By centering Black life and knowledge, this collection examines abolitionist thought, cultural memory, and the transformative power of Black intellectual traditions. It addresses historical erasure, systemic oppression, and the ongoing struggle for justice, providing students with a critical foundation in the discipline. As the first freely available OER of its kind, this text ensures equitable access to Black Studies at a time when such scholarship is increasingly under attack. Engaging, thought-provoking, and deeply rooted in social justice, Introduction to African American Studies is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand and contribute to the discourse on Black radical thought, intellect, and culture.

• New Discipline Leads •

The OERI is delighted to welcome a number of new OERI Discipline Leads (please see below). All will be either creating a new discipline collection or updating the collection that was established by a prior lead. We're especially happy to announce our first Accounting and Agriculture Business Discipline Leads. Do you or your faculty have a discipline-specific OER question? [Consider contacting an OERI Discipline Lead for assistance](#).

- Aleksandra Uchlik, Accounting, Golden West College
- Jacob Vazquez, Agriculture Business, Butte College
- Karen Crozer, English, Los Angeles Mission College
- Scott Crosier, Geography/Physical Sciences, Cosumnes River College
- Randy Reed, Geology, Shasta College
- Michelle Stonis, History, Glendale Community College

• Seeking Discipline Leads •

The ASCCC OERI is recruiting faculty to support our OER advocacy efforts by serving as Discipline Leads for the current term. The specific tasks of each Discipline Lead will be determined by the status of the discipline. All Discipline Leads will serve as a resource for their discipline colleagues and will typically host at least one virtual event each term. For the Spring 2025 term, Discipline Leads receive a stipend of $500 at the end of each term upon completion of their specified tasks. Please direct any questions about this opportunity to our general OERI e-mail. (oeri@asccc.org) While we are

actively recruiting for the listed disciplines, the OERI encourages faculty in other disciplines to submit an application. The ASCCC OERI is currently seeking a Discipline Lead for each of the following:

- ADAPT and Accounting
- ADAPT and Chemistry
- ADAPT and Math
- ADAPT and Physics
- Addiction Studies
- Agriculture
- Counseling
- Data Science
- Health
- Humanities
- Music
- Nutrition
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Social Justice Studies

View more information about the role and the application procedure on the ASCCC OERI website.

• OERI Events – April OERI Friday Forums •

During the Spring 2025 term, the OERI Friday Forums will be on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. 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, April 4, 10:30 am – 11:30 am
Ensuring Student Access to Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Pathways
California's investment in the ZTC Degree Program is intended to not merely increase the availability of ZTC course sections, but also to "ensure the development and implementation of the greatest number of degrees for the benefit of the greatest number of students" (California Education Code Section 78052). How do you maximize the number of students who truly complete a ZTC program? What's the minimum every college should be doing? Join us to consider approaches to achieving this goal – both aspirational and practical.
Register for Ensuring Student Access to ZTC Pathways

Friday, April 18, 10:30 am – 11:30 am
Approaches to Integrating No-Cost Marking and XB12 (Instructional-Material-Cost) Coding into the Textbook Adoption Process
In January of 2018, the requirement that California community colleges mark their no-cost course sections went into effect [Senate Bill 1359 (Block, 2016)]. In the summer of 2022, all colleges were to have implemented the initial iteration of XB12, a section level data element that was intended to identify course sections that achieved no-cost by using Open Educational Resources (OER). Effective summer 2024, XB12 was modified to more effectively capture course costs and to identify how a section became no-cost. Unfortunately, most colleges have not designated a person(s) responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of no-cost marking and XB12 coding. Further, obtaining the information for both often require faculty to provide the data in addition to reporting standard textbook adoption information. Can a process be created to ensure that accurate course material information is available to students at the time of registration and all required coding and marking happen in a streamlined fashion? Join us for a discussion of the challenges and an array of approaches to inform your integrated – or more integrated - approach to the collection of these data.
Register for Approaches to Integrating No-Cost Marking and XB12 Coding into the Textbook Adoption Process

• OER and New Technologies •

The OERI is pleased to share these two webinars that showcase new tools being developed based on needs identified by our faculty. These tools are particularly noteworthy as they were developed to meet a specific need of a discipline but can easily be used by other disciplines.

Wednesday, April 16, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
LibreTexts' ADAPT Homework Platform and the new Discuss-It
Discover how ADAPT, the LibreTexts homework platform, empowers instructors to create interactive, engaging, and customizable open educational resources assessments. This powerful tool supports student learning with auto-graded assignments, a repository of more than 225,000 questions, and seamless LTI/API integration with Canvas. In this webinar, we'll also introduce Discuss-It, an innovative tool within ADAPT that fosters asynchronous student interaction through text, audio, and video discussions. Learn how these free tools can enhance student engagement, streamline course management, and create a more inclusive and collaborative online learning environment.
Register for LibreText's ADAPT Homework Platform and the new Discuss-IT

Thursday, April 24, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Leveling Up Education: Using Open Educational Resources (OER) to Gamify Education
Discover how OER can be leveraged to design and develop engaging, free-to-play video games that enhance student learning. This session explores available OER

assets, game development tools, and best practices for integrating interactive media into coursework. Learn how to create meaningful, accessible gaming experiences that empower students without financial barriers. Whether you're an educator, developer, or instructional designer, this presentation will provide practical strategies for making learning more immersive and equitable.

Register for Leveling Up Education: Using OER to Gamify Education

• OERI Discipline Lead Events •

The OERI Discipline Leads regularly host conversations and webinars to share resources, identify needs, and build community. These events are intended for discipline faculty and for those who have an interest in the discipline as supporters or advocates. Webinars will be recorded and archived. A "conversation" or an office hour are informal discussions and recordings may be shared upon approval of the presenter. 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.

Discipline Lead Office Hours

Math Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours
The OERI is pleased to offer a series of Math OER office hours throughout the term. These office hours will serve as a questions and answers session where attendees bring in their math OER needs, requests, and questions. Attendees can also use this space to receive guidance and ask questions pertaining to MyOpenMath.
Register for Math OER Office Hours on Tuesday, April 1, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Register for Math OER Office Hours on Wednesday, April 16, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Register for Math OER Office Hours on Tuesday, April 29, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Register for Math OER Office Hours on Wednesday, May 14, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Physics Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours
The OERI is pleased to offer a series of Physics OER office hours throughout the term. These office hours will be held on Fridays from 9:00 am – 10:00 am for the Spring 2025 semester. The space serves as a questions and answers session where attendees bring in their Physics OER needs, requests, and questions. Attendees can also use this space to receive guidance and ask questions pertaining to MyOpenMath for STEM disciplines. Please see the registration links below.
Register for Physics OER Office Hours in April
Register for Physics OER Office Hours in May

Discipline Lead Webinars and Conversations

Wednesday, April 2, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Engaging Students in Geography with Open Educational Resources (OER): Meet the "Backyard Geographer", Jeremy Patrich

As described [in a 2020 article](#), "Backyard Geographer" Professor Jeremy Patrich tries to liven things up for his students by incorporating his passions for geography, geology and Disney artifacts into YouTube videos that he hopes will help build interest and engagement in education. What resources has Jeremy developed that you can integrate into your teaching? Join us for a discussion of the development and use of OER for geography.

[Register for Engaging Students in Geography with OER: Meet the "Backyard Geographer", Jeremy Patrich](#)

Friday, April 4, 9:00 am – 10:00 am
Psychology Open Educational Resources (OER): OpenStax and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Updates
Psychology faculty have long been pioneers in the adoption and usage of openly licensed resources and are continuing to innovate with OER. Recently, OpenStax published two new resources while faculty continue to incorporate IDEA into discipline OER. Join us to hear about the latest resources available and discuss what more we can do with OER and IDEA.

[Register for the Psychology OER: OpenStax and IDEA Updates](#)

Monday, April 7, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
How to Ethically Integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Sociology Courses
In this conversation, join us to discuss the growing landscape of AI and how it can be ethically integrated into sociology courses.

[Register for How to Ethically Integrate AI into Sociology Courses](#)

Thursday, April 10, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Converting Local Political Science (POLS) Courses to Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Using Open Educational Resource (OER)
While all but one of the specified courses in the [POLS Transfer Model Curriculum](#) have available OER, a variety of local political science courses that are found in the Associate Degree for Transfer and/or in local degrees do not. What local courses are commonly found in political science degrees, and what OER are available – or needed – to make these courses ZTC? Join us to discuss what is needed for all political science courses to be ZTC.

[Register for Converting Local POLS Courses to ZTC Using OER](#)

Friday, April 11, 10:00 am – 11:00 am
Revolutionizing Language Teaching: Human-Artificial Intelligence (AI) Collaborations for Open Educational Resources (OER) Creation and Open Educational Practices
In this webinar, we will investigate how OER authors can co-create content with AI to produce texts that adapt to students' proficiency levels and areas of interest. We will also look at how students can learn to leverage AI to find inspiration, get feedback on their writing, and create conversation partners. All these features will be presented while exploring a new innovative text "Vida Sana" designed by the presenter for a course in Spanish for Health Professions.

Register for Revolutionizing Language Teaching: Human-AI Collaborations for OER Creation and Open Educational Practices

Friday, April 11, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Integrating Indigenous Perspectives and Global Issues in Spanish Open Educational Resources (OER)
How can OER support the integration of Indigenous voices in higher education? This webinar explores the impact of an intercultural Spanish curriculum based on open educational resources, highlighting the potential of OER to elevate and integrate Indigenous epistemologies in higher education. The open nature of these resources is particularly important when engaging with Indigenous ways of knowing, ensuring that knowledge circulates freely without economic or institutional barriers, honoring its communal essence and safeguarding it from exclusive appropriation.
Register for Integrating Indigenous Perspectives and Global Issues in Spanish OER

Wednesday, April 23, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Integrating RNA-Seq Research into Biology for Majors Courses
This webinar will introduce faculty to an openly licensed curriculum that seamlessly integrates an RNA-seq research project into Biology for Majors courses. Participants will explore how to implement an authentic bioinformatics investigation using open educational resource tools to foster student engagement, scientific literacy, and hands-on experience in genomics. Designed for educators seeking to enhance their curriculum with research-driven learning, this session will provide practical strategies for incorporating real-world data analysis into undergraduate biology courses.
Register for Integrating RNA-Seq Research into Biology for Majors Courses

Wednesday, April 23, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Mathematics Support Courses and Open Educational Resources (OER)
Math faculty do their best to help students who may not be prepared for the math class that they enrolled in, but it can be challenging to meet the various needs of students with different levels of knowledge and skill. Join us in this conversation where we share what we are doing at our colleges using OER to support all math students. Bring your ideas, questions, and challenges.
Register for Mathematics Support Courses and OER

Wednesday, April 23, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Developing Open Educational Resources (OER) for Journalism Courses
Meet the faculty who are working on OER for courses in the Journalism Associate Degree for Transfer (AD-T). Journalism faculty Tara Cuslidge-Staiano and Erin Hiro will explain how they created their textbooks, A Guide to News Writing and Broccoli and Chocolate: A Beginner's Guide to Journalism, which may be used when teaching Introduction to Mass Communications (C-ID JOUR 110) and Student Media Practicum I (C-ID JOUR 130). Then, journalism faculty Rachel Leibrock will discuss the plan to create new resources for Introduction to Photojournalism (C-ID JOUR 160). The webinar will end with an invitation to create new OER for the remaining journalism courses.
Register for Developing OER for Journalism Courses

Tuesday, April 29, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Kinesiology: Maximizing Impact
Join us for a focused conversation on the future of OER in kinesiology, homing in on curriculum areas we can meaningfully direct our efforts, and possible collaboration to maximize impact. We will also address a critical need: solutions for creating and sharing high-quality, accessible lab videos. Please join us - your input is vital as we shape our OER strategies.

[Register for OER for Kinesiology: Maximizing Impact](#)