ASCCC OERI September 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Fall 2025 term and the 2025-2026 academic year. While there were no true surprises over the summer, there was one important development – the new title 5 regulation 5, § 54221 Burden-Free Access to Instructional Materials, was chaptered on July 1, 2025, and became effective July 30, 2025. Your district has 180 days from the effective date to modify its policies and procedures to fulfill the regulatory requirements, with a deadline of Jan. 26, 2026. This new regulation requires local governing boards to "adopt policies that ensure student access to textbooks and supplemental materials that are needed on the first day of class" and emphasizes the use of OER. The OERI is anticipating that resolutions related to the requirements may be needed and will host a webinar in early September to explore ideas. The OERI will also hold a webinar in October on the new regulation. If you have any questions and/or your college has already initiated changes in response to the regulation, please let the OERI know.

During the Fall 2025 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 5. As always, you can find registration information on our website and in our monthly newsletters.

• Cal OER 2025 – Thank you! •

Thank you to all who attended Cal OER 2025 in August. The opening keynote and the system updates are now available on the Cal OER YouTube channel. Based on attendee feedback, the Cal OER Planning Committee will be identifying new dates for 2026. Stay tuned!

• OERI Summer Projects •

The OERI is piloting a process to review and update commonly adopted resources. The following projects are in progress and are expected to be completed by the end of Fall 2025.

- Updates and revisions to OpenStax Introduction to Business in LibreTexts.
- Updates and revisions to OpenStax Psychology 2e in LibreTexts.

In addition, a team of communication studies faculty is developing a standalone resource that can be integrated into any public speaking OER to ensure such texts

address the content, objectives/outcomes, and standards required by both the Common Course Numbering COMM C1000 template and Cal-GETC Area 1C (Oral Communication). If you or your faculty have initiated work to meet this need, please let the OERI know. And many thanks to Citrus College for sharing a new remix titled Essentials of Exemplary Public Speaking which has been developed to address the aforementioned needs.

To support faculty who are needing additional content to teach a public speaking course during the present term, the OERI has developed an analysis of available OER to meet those needs and is sharing a wide array of OER via a Canvas shell. Please find links to these resources on the Open Educational Resources and Communication Studies page.

After the OERI communication studies team has completed its work compiling and developing content to meet the new requirements, it will be integrated into Stand up, Speak out – The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking in LibreTexts (CC BY-NC-SA). An overview of where the content was integrated will be provided to support its inclusion into other OER.

OpenStax Introduction to Business, OpenStax Psychology 2e, and Stand up, Speak out – The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking have all undergone an OERI Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Antiracism (IDEA) Framework Assessment. Feedback received from the assessment will be integrated into these texts as quickly as possible.

• OER Project Dashboard •

Since receiving numerous requests to learn about the OER that colleges are creating locally with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) funds, the OERI is pleased to share our OER Project Dashboard that contains project information gathered from the ZTC Acceleration Cohort process. While information is limited for some of the projects, we hope you will find the dashboard useful.

If you participated in the ZTC Collaboration Cohort process and have an update to share, please submit the information through our OER Project Update Submission form. Are you working on a project that is not included on the dashboard? Please provide your project information so we can share it with the field!

• OERI Discipline Leads Wanted •

The OERI is recruiting Discipline Leads for 2025 – 2026. Discipline Leads receive a stipend of $600 per term for completing their assigned tasks and are also eligible to receive a stipend for taking the OERI's courses. Read more about the Discipline Lead role and the process for applying.

The OERI encourages faculty in all disciplines to apply. While we are presently recruiting Leads for the following disciplines, we are always happy to consider other disciplines as well.

- Addiction Studies
- Agriculture
- Asian American Studies
- Counseling
- Data Science
- Engineering
- Health
- Humanities
- Native American Studies
- Nutrition
- Nursing
- Public Health
- Social Justice Studies

• ASCCC OERI OER Development Support Options •

Since its inception, the OERI has provided OER-related professional development opportunities across the state and developed resources to support OER exploration, advocacy, development, and sustainability. In addition, through five OER-development funding cycles, the OERI has created a comprehensive process consisting of multiple components to facilitate OER development.

Since colleges may need assistance in OER adaptation and development as they establish ZTC pathways, the OERI is prepared to tailor its support to meet those local needs. See more of what the OERI has to offer in the ASCCC OERI OER Development Support Options. Learn how the OERI can support your college at tinyurl.com/OERI-Support.

• ASCCC AI, Distance Education, and IDEA OERI Events •

In Fall 2023, the OERI expanded its leadership team to include Tiffany Lanoix as its Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Antiracism (IDEA) Lead. The impact of having a dedicated lead has prompted the OERI to introduce two additional leads to further the OERI's work in specific areas. Elizabeth (Liz) Encarnacion will be exploring the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Open Educational Resources (OER) and Jim Julius is committed to more effectively establishing connections with the distance education (DE) community. If you have specific interests with respect to OER and AI, DE, and/or IDEA that you'd like to see the OERI address, please share them with us. This month you'll see that we are featuring AI in our second Friday Forum.

Friday, September 5, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA): Leveraging OER to Support IDEA
By using OER, faculty can customize course materials to reflect their distinctive

approach to the curriculum. Additionally, the ASCCC OERI IDEA Framework can help faculty in adapting those materials to reflect the diversity of their unique students. The recently developed IDEA Framework Assessment Process is designed to assist faculty who wish to improve their resources with IDEA principles in mind. Join us to learn about the intersection of OER and IDEA – and OERI's IDEA plans for the future.
Register for OER and IDEA: Leveraging OER to Support IDEA

Friday, September 12, 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) Office Hour
Drop in to chat about ASCCC's IDEA Framework. This space is for anyone using the framework to assess existing OER materials, to create new OER, or to discuss all things IDEA. Join your IDEA colleagues to ask questions, to get feedback, or to brainstorm.
Register for the IDEA Office Hour

• OERI Events – September OERI Friday Forums •

During the Fall 2025 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 5, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) by Design: The OERI Project Management Course Tour
What does it take to effectively guide faculty through an Open Educational Resources (OER) project? Whether you are leading an OER project or participating in one, having the knowledge needed to be successful - and understanding the work involved – can prepare you for success. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the OERI Project Management course - your new go-to playbook for leading ZTC pathways and OER initiatives. Packed with ready-to-use tools, smart templates, and strategic insights, this course is built to help you achieve real impact at your college.
Register for ZTC by Design: The OERI Project Management Course Tour

The OERI Project Management Course
The next OERI Project Management Course will begin on Monday, September 29 and end on Friday, October 31. Participants will engage with the online content and meet on Fridays from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm for the duration of the course. Interested in participating? Please check the ASCCC OERI Fall 2025 OER Project Management Cohort – Interest Form.

Friday, September 19, 10:30 am - 11:30 am
Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the Open Educational Resources (OER) Table: How Much is Too Much?

AI has joined the conversation of developing and improving existing OER — but how much should we allow it to contribute? What are the ethical considerations and where are the technical red lines? In this session, we'll examine the benefits, boundaries, and potential pitfalls of integrating AI into OER creation. The conversation will balance useful tips with guidance on responsible practice.
Register for AI at the OER Table: How Much is Too Much?

• 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.

Thursday, September 4, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Open Educational Resources (OER) for Public Speaking – Filling Potential Gaps
During the summer of 2025, a group of communication studies faculty met to identify OER that could be used to address required elements in the public speaking course due to recent statewide curriculum changes. Join us to learn about the summer work, the currently available resources, and the work that is in progress.
Register for OER for Public Speaking – Filling Potential Gaps