

ASCCC OERI Discipline Leads Newsletter – February 2026

Happy New Year and welcome back, OERI Discipline Leads (DLs)! As you are an important part of the OERI and a member of the broader OER community, we created monthly newsletters to keep you informed. Below you will find DL reminders and DL-hosted events, information about recent OER developments and general OERI events in February.

• Discipline Lead Expectations •

All of the information you need for your role as a Discipline Lead can be found within our "[DL Onboarding and Resources](#)" Canvas course. The course includes OER Basics and Accessibility Basics, as well as information specific to the DL role. It will be review for many of our returning DLs.

Please note that Module 7 is now dedicated to the expectations for new/newer DLs (who will work with Jennifer Paris), while Module 8 is geared towards the more experienced DLs (who will work with Lara Braff). You can find an updated list of new and experienced DLs on Pages 7.1 and 8.0b.

The expectations for all DLs may vary slightly this semester, as described in Modules 7 and 8. In addition, some DLs might be asked to review OER for their alignment with course content and objectives as specified on the Common Course Numbering (CCN) templates. More information on this will be provided to impacted disciplines.

The Canvas course replaces the tracking sheets that have been used in the past. All of your tasks are included within the course as "assignments" that must be completed by **May 8, 2026** in order for your \$600 stipend to be approved and processed.

Since this is only our second time using Canvas for this purpose, we look forward to your feedback and suggestions.

• Connecting with Your Discipline Lead Coordinator •

New and Newer DLs

If you need to check in, would like to chat, or ask questions, you can sign up to meet with Jennifer during her New/Newer DL Office Hours using [Microsoft Bookings](#) for the dates below or you can [email Jennifer](#) to set up a time.

Experienced DLs

If you would like to connect with Lara Braff, you can send her an email to make an appointment or join one of her February office hours using this [Zoom link](#):

- Thursday, 2/12, 1-2pm
- Friday 2/13, 9-10am
- Tuesday 2/17, 9-10am
- Wednesday 2/25, 3-4pm

• Wanted: Your Adoption Data •

One of OERI's primary functions is ensuring the currency of the OER commonly being used at the colleges. Therefore, knowing what OER faculty have adopted is important since having accurate adoption data is critical to inform the selection of which OER to update. In order to make adoption reporting simpler, we have added links to our [OER by Discipline](#) pages and our [searchable OER by C-ID table](#). If you are using an OER, please take a moment to report it. If you are aware of a resource that you would like to see added to any of our collections, [please share it with the OERI using the Suggested ASCCC OERI Resource Form](#).

• Recruiting OERI Discipline Leads •

The OERI is currently seeking DLs for several disciplines. Please share this opportunity with your colleagues that you think would be a good fit to join our team. [Read more about the role](#) and how to apply.

We are also hosting an upcoming webinar that provides an overview of the role and a chance to ask any burning questions.

Monday, February 2, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Being an Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI) Discipline Lead but Were Afraid to Ask (AKA OERI Discipline Lead Information Session)

Discipline Leads are a critical component of the OERI ecosystem in serving as a resource for their colleagues and curating the OERI's collection for their discipline. The OERI welcomes applicants from all disciplines and does not require prior experience with OER. Join this webinar to learn about the role and, hopefully, be persuaded to apply.

[Register for OERI Discipline Lead Information Session](#)

• 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.

Wednesday, February 18, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Finding and Evaluating Open Educational Resources (OER) for Your Discipline Collection

As a Discipline Lead, locating high-quality OER for commonly taught courses is one of your most important—and often most time-consuming—tasks. Knowing where to look is only half the challenge; deciding what’s worth adding to your collection is the other. Whether you’re building a new collection or refreshing an existing one, join us to explore practical strategies for finding OER efficiently and approaches for evaluating what truly belongs in your discipline’s library.

[Register for Finding and Evaluating OER for Your Discipline Collection](#)

Mathematics and Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours

The OERI is pleased to offer a series of math and OER office hours throughout the term. These office hours will serve as a question-and-answer 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 Thursday, February 5, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 am – 11:00 am](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Monday, March 2, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm](#)

[Register for Math OER Office Hours on Tuesday, March 17, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm](#)

• Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Feasibility Study – Student Survey Sharing Request •

The ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative is sharing the following opportunity on behalf of **Irvine Valley College (IVC) Library**, which is leading an **IRB-approved ZTC Degree Feasibility Study** focused on student experiences with textbook costs and **ZTC degree pathways**. This project is supported by funding, in thanks to the [Michelson 20MM Foundation](#) through a Spark Grant awarded to Irvine Valley College.

Why participate

- This study centers **student voice** in conversations around affordability, access, and degree planning
- **Any college that participates will receive access to the full, de-identified raw dataset from all participating colleges**, courtesy of IVC Library
- Data may be used for **local analysis, planning, reporting, and internal decision-making**

Survey link (share with students): [Textbook Cost and ZTC Degree Student Survey](#)

Irvine Valley College also developed [ready-to-use blurbs](#) that you may copy, paste, and adapt when sharing the survey with students.

• Call for Proposals for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Academia 2026: Navigating the Future •

The call for proposals for Artificial Intelligence and Academia 2026: Navigating the Future is now open. This in-person event (March 19-21) will be held at the [Westin South Coast Plaza](#) in Costa Mesa. The proposal deadline is January 30 at 5:00pm.

Following the 2025 Academic Academy focused on AI, faculty feedback highlighted a clear and ongoing need for discipline-specific, balanced, and practical approaches to coexist in an environment increasingly altered by AI. While the 2025 event sought to support faculty across the full spectrum of AI experiences and attitudes, responses showed that participants wanted more tailored strategies for their subject areas—including both AI-enabled opportunities and overcoming AI-related challenges involving academic integrity, assessment, and workload concerns.

In partnership with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges is pleased to announce [AI and Academia 2026: Navigating the Future](#). This institute will center discipline-grounded practices, nuanced conversations, and actionable solutions for teaching and learning in a landscape where AI use—and potential misuse—is growing rapidly. The program will include invited presentations and sessions selected through this Call for Proposals.

We invite faculty, researchers, administrators, and practitioners to submit proposals that share innovative approaches, critical perspectives, and real-world applications of AI in community college education. While open educational resources are not explicitly referenced in the guidelines for proposals, OER tools and AI uses that are only possible when working with OER are encouraged.

For more information regarding this event, please visit the [ASCCC Academic Academy 2026 event page](#).

• New! Open Educational Resources (OER) and Astronomy Discipline Collection •

The OER by Discipline collections on the OERI website are continuing to grow as the OERI recruits more Discipline Leads. We are happy to share that our Astronomy Discipline Lead, Rachel Mastrapa, has compiled the [Open Educational Resources and Astronomy collection](#). This curated list of resources is intended to assist faculty in selecting an OER text in lieu of a commercial text. If you are aware of additional resources that should be included, please contact us at the OERI (oeri@asccc.org) [Click here to view the discipline collections page](#).

• Open Educational Resources (OER) and Distance Education (DE) Office Hours •

Drop in to chat, share ideas, and ask questions about the intersections of OER and DE. If you are creating, teaching, and/or supporting DE courses which use OER, let's talk about platforms, pedagogies, policies, and practices, whether they're problematic, promising, or a little of both!

[Register for OER and DE Office Hour on Wednesday, February 11, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm](#)
[Register for OER and DE Office Hour on Monday, February 23, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm](#)

• OERI Events – February OERI Friday Forums •

During the Spring 2026 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 through May 1. 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.

Friday, February 6, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Fall 2025 Open Educational Resources Liaison (OERL) Survey Results

Since its inception, the Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI) has gathered data from local OERLs on a yearly basis. While the focus of the survey has shifted over time, many of the questions have been repeated to track changes in the field. Join us to explore what has and hasn't changed – and to learn about the various ways OER and cost-transparency efforts are being implemented across the state.

[Register for Fall 2025 OERL Survey Results](#)

Friday, February 20, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Measuring Effort and Analytics with The Forge

In the Artificial Intelligence (AI) era, educators are increasingly challenged by writing assignments and the need to distinguish between student-generated work and AI-leveraged content. The Forge offers a solution by shifting the focus from the final product to the writing process itself. This webinar will explore how instructors across various disciplines - from composition, world languages, and linguistics to chemistry and statistics - can use analytic maps to gain deeper insights into how students construct their work and visualize the writing process. With The Forge's new integration with the LibreTexts ADAPT homework system, students can access The Forge with a single click while providing instructors with analytical tracking and rubric abilities, aligning with equitable grading practices such as mastery grading, contract-based grading, and ungrading by empowering students to show their critical thinking and revision history.

[Register for Measuring Effort and Analytics with The Forge](#)