



## ASCCC OERI February 2026 OER Liaison Newsletter

Happy New Year! While we know some of you are enjoying the final days – or weeks – of your break – others have been back at work since as early as the 5<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming term. While some of what follows duplicates what was shared in our January communication, much of it is new. Please take special notice of the survey faculty are being asked to share in the general part of the newsletter.

### • Spring 2026 OER Liaison (OERL) Expectations •

All OER Liaisons need to document their Spring 2026 OER Liaison “attendance” activities using the [Spring 2026 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet](#) ([tinyurl.com/OERL-2026S](http://tinyurl.com/OERL-2026S)). OERLs are expected to complete – and document – their Spring 2026 OERL activities by Wednesday, May 6.

[Please let the OERI know](#) if there will be a change in who your OERL is for the Spring term. Access the [Spring 2026 OERL Expectations document](#) for more information. Please note that you should be attending or viewing a Spring 2026 Kick-Off by February 27. February 27 is also the date by which you are expected to document and/or refine your goal(s) for the term. Your Regional Lead will contact you with more information.

### Spring 2026 OER Liaison (OERL) Kick-offs

Welcome back! OERL Kick-Offs are designed to prepare OERLs for their roles, especially those who are newer to the role. This space provides an opportunity for the OERI to update OER Liaisons and for the OERI to hear from Liaisons. We will be going over expectations and important updates.

[Register for Monday, February 9, 10:00 am – 11:00 am Spring 2026 OERL Kick-off](#)  
[Register for Friday, February 27, 10:00 am – 11:00 am Spring 2026 OERL Kick-off](#)

### • New to ZTC Work? •

#### Wednesday, February 11, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

##### Introduction to ZTC Leadership

This training is for individuals who have recently assumed a leadership role with their college’s Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program grants, designed to quickly get

you up-to-speed on OER and ZTC basics. This webinar is intended to ensure that faculty leads/coordinators, deans, directors, and others in management roles related to their college's ZTC efforts have the knowledge and resources needed to be successful. Are you responsible for ZTC grant reporting and tracking but not sure how to spell OER and ZTC? This session is for you! - Topics will include OER and ZTC basics, including open licensing; making the case with faculty; and creating a local ZTC support team and workflow.

[Register for Introduction to ZTC Leadership](#)

## • Making OER More Accessible •

California-based ISKME ([Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education](#)) is offering the following webinars to support the OER community in ensuring the accessibility of OER.

### **Introduction to Accessibility for Open Educational Resources (OER)**

Join ISKME for an exploration of accessibility OER with 60-minute Zoom sessions designed to support our community with the processes, tools, supports, and best practices for creating and remixing openly licensed resources for accessibility. These introductory sessions will be an opportunity for attendees to learn more about the [US Department of Justice's Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments](#), discover OER that support accessibility, and engage in discussions about Accessibility for OER creation and implementation practices in breakout rooms. Please register for the date and time that works for you below. We look forward to engaging with you and building our community of OER and Accessibility Leaders. **Registration is required, and the sessions are free.**

- [Register for Intro to Accessibility for OER on February 3, 9:30 am](#)
- [Register for Intro to Accessibility for OER on February 9, 7:30 am](#)
- [Register for Intro to Accessibility for OER on March 4, 12:00 pm](#)
- [Register for Intro to Accessibility for OER on March 12, 4:00 pm](#)

ISKME has partnered with [CAST](#) to lead [two advanced series that will support OER accessibility for images and styles](#). Each series will provide targeted learning on how OER can better incorporate accessibility best practices for adding and describing images, and utilizing styles in resource design. **The cost of each series is \$200 per participant.**

## • OER Liaison Events – February 2026 •

While this event is intended for OERLs, please invite colleagues to attend if it is of interest to others.

**Tuesday, February 10, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Why Open Educational Resources (OER) Marketing Matters (and How to Start)**

Creating or curating OER is only part of the work of a local OER lead — helping others find and understand OER it is just as important. This webinar introduces the importance

of marketing OER on campus and how it supports awareness, buy-in, and sustainability. Participants will gain a foundation for thinking strategically about OER messaging, even with limited time or resources.

[Register for Why OER Marketing Matters](#)

## • 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 •

Hello! As the Open Educational Resources Liaison for our college, it is my pleasure 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 free and 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.

## • 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.

- Office Technology
- Public Health

The OERI is seeking Discipline Leads for Spring 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 self-paced courses. [Read more about the Discipline Lead role](#) and the process for applying. If you're interested in the Discipline Lead role but want to know more about it, please consider joining our upcoming webinar that provides an overview of the role and a chance to ask your 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](#)

While we are presently actively recruiting Leads for the following disciplines, we are always happy to consider other disciplines as well.

- Addiction Studies
- Agriculture
- Alternative Fuels and Advanced Transportation Technology
- Arabic
- Asian American Studies
- Automotive Technology
- Chicanax/Latinx Studies
- Commercial Music
- Computer Science
- Counseling
- Data Science
- Dental Assistant
- Electronics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Ethnic Studies
- Fire Technology
- French
- Health
- Health Information Technology
- History
- Hospitality
- Italian
- Nursing

## • 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](#)

## • 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.

### **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](#)