

ASCCC OERI March 2026 Newsletter

The OERI's March calendar is a full one. We have two special CTE-related webinars and we are pleased to announce a new event format this month – “brown bag” events that provide 30 minutes of content and another 30 minutes for questions and discussion. [AI and Academia 2026: Navigating the Future](#), is happening March 19-21. Due to OERI's involvement in this event, we will not have a Friday Forum on March 20.

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

(Note: To maximize student participation, the OERI is sharing this request a second time. The initial findings are interesting – and we look forward to sharing them.)

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. In order to ensure your college's data are shared in the initial report, survey completion must be completed by April 3. The survey, however, will remain open until May 20th.

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.

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

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.

For more information regarding this event, please visit the [ASCCC Academic Academy 2026 event page](#). This in-person event (March 19-21) will be held at the [Westin South Coast Plaza](#) in Costa Mesa. [Register for 2026 ASCCC Academic Academy here.](#)

• Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-racism (IDEA) Framework Summer Programming •

Tiffany Lanoix, the OERI's IDEA Lead, is planning fun and exciting summer opportunities for those who want to use the ASCCC OERI IDEA Framework in the OER development process. Check out the information session below to learn how you can be involved.

Friday, March 27, 10:00 am – 10:30 am

Elevate Your Open Educational Resources (OER): Inclusive, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-racism (IDEA) Framework Summer 2026 Assessment Information Session

The OERI is expanding the IDEA Framework assessment process, a dedicated approach to reviewing new and revised OERI-supported materials to ensure they are inclusive, diverse, equity-minded, and anti-racist. Two exciting assessment sessions will be offered this summer. In the sessions, participants may either submit authored or adopted OER materials for expert review by specially trained IDEA Framework assessors or participate in a four-week guided IDEA Framework assessment alongside fellow OER adopters, learning collaboratively while evaluating authored or adopted OER materials. Join the upcoming information session to learn about the qualifications and expectations as well as obtain answers to any remaining questions.

[Register for the IDEA Framework Summer 2026 Assessment Information Session](#)

• OERI Brown Bag Series •

The OERI is pleased to announce the introduction of its Brown Bag Series. Each brown bag is a 30-minute mini-webinar where participants can drop in to learn about a focused topic. After the session ends, presenters and participants are welcome to stay and engage in further dialogue or ask questions about the topic.

Thursday, March 5, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

AI Bytes: Rubrics, Resilience, and Robots

This session will explore rubric language that supports academic integrity, transparency, and discipline standards no matter the AI use policy (allowed or not) in the classroom. Participants will leave with concrete assessment tweaks and rubric phrases to help support their equitable grading practices.

[Register for AI Bytes: Rubrics, Resilience, and Robots](#)

Thursday, March 26, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

AI Bytes: Boosting Accessibility, Not Workload

This session will explore opportunities for AI to support Universal Design for Learning in the online and in person classroom. When faculty are using open educational resources, AI can be employed to create ancillary resources and other educational materials. Participants will leave with tools, prompts, and examples to support generating accessible handouts, organize complex instructions, and create alternative formats for multiple learning preferences, while also being mindful of student privacy, accuracy, and accommodation versus modification.

[Register for AI Bytes: Boosting Accessibility, Not Workload](#)

Friday, April 10, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

AI Bytes: Practical Privacy Protections

This session will walk through the types of information that individuals should be aware of to keep their data secure when utilizing AI in courses that use open educational resources (OER), and in the OER creation, revision, remixing or assessment process. Participants will also investigate the different ways to opt-out of specific settings on common gen-AI platforms as well as understand the aspects to be mindful of when conducting prompt engineering.

[Register for AI Bytes: Practical Privacy Protections](#)

Tuesday, March 10, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Accessibility Apps: Complex Images and Alt Text

Writing alternative text (alt text) for simple images is one thing, but what about dense charts, layered maps, complex infographics, scientific diagrams, or multi-panel visuals? This webinar dives into practical strategies for describing highly detailed images in ways that are clear, accurate, and aligned with accessibility standards. Bring your image challenges to add some flavor to the discussion.

[Register for Complex Images and Alt Text](#)

Tuesday, March 17, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Accessibility Apps: So, You're Suddenly Expected to be an Accessibility Expert

New to accessibility review? This webinar introduces the [OERI Accessibility Checklist](#). Focusing on practical strategies, the checklist can help you to confidently provide feedback to your OER authors.

[Register for So, You're Suddenly Expected to be an Accessibility Expert](#)

• 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, March 6, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Finding the Human Connection in a Digital World: Using Discuss-It to Build Community, Promote Critical Thinking, and Shift the Focus of Assessment

In an age of automation, how do you ensure that student work remains a reflection of genuine learning? Join us to learn about Discuss-It, an openly-licensed tool within the LibreTexts platform. Discuss-It transforms discussions into interactive, multimedia exchanges through audio, video, and text. Learn how integrating voice and video responses can boost engagement, build community, and bring human presence back to your courses regardless of your discipline.

[Register for Finding the Human Connection in a Digital World](#)

Friday, March 20, 10:30 am – 11:30 am – Cancelled due to conflicting event.

• New Career Technical Education (CTE) Discipline and New Resource •

This month, the OERI is pleased to share a new CTE discipline to be added to the OERI's curated collection and a chance for CTE faculty to learn about a new resource that may be useful for many disciplines. Please note that we continue to be interested in working with new disciplines. [Learn about the Discipline Lead role](#) – and [consider submitting an application](#) today.

Monday, March 9, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Digital Media: Building a New Open Educational Resources (OER) Discipline Collection Together

Digital media is a new discipline for the OERI, offering an opportunity to shape its direction and create support for faculty from the ground up. This session will focus on what materials digital media faculty need, what resources we already have, and how we can leverage existing tools, OER, and partnerships to identify gaps and plan next steps together.

[Register for Digital Media: Building a New OER Discipline Collection Together](#)

Monday, March 16, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Toolkit for Inclusive Workforce Education: Embedding Essential Professional Skills into Your Courses

Join us to explore the Toolkit for Inclusive Workforce Education, a new openly licensed resource designed to help faculty integrate essential professional skills into existing course content without changing course objectives, discipline, or modality. Explore five adaptable module templates that support communication, technology use, self-advocacy, goal setting, and problem-solving, along with student reflection tools and a faculty implementation checklist. Come preview the resources and share feedback to help shape how they can best support CTE instruction. Ample time for questions and feedback will be provided. As this resource could be used by many disciplines, your perspective on the toolkit and its elements, as well as where you would expect to find such a resource are aspects of the feedback we are hoping to collect.

[Register for Toolkit for Inclusive Workforce Education: Embedding Essential Professional Skills into Your Courses](#)

• OERI Discipline 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.

Monday, March 2, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Using Open Educational Resources (OER) in Hospitality Management

How can OER be used in hospitality management classes to improve learning, encourage innovation, and increase access to quality educational materials? Join us to discuss the benefits of OER for faculty and students, as well as what OER is needed in the discipline and what OER needs to be improved.

[Register for Using OER in Hospitality Management](#)

Wednesday, March 4, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Fresh and Easy? Authentic Assessment for the Communication Studies Open Educational Resources (OER) Classroom in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The current surge of generative and agentic AI can mean having to shift gears constantly as an instructor. No matter the course and no matter the AI policy, this session will help support you in your OER classroom to find low-lift ways to refresh content, revise assessments, and identify boundaries or policies that align with your educational philosophy without having to overhaul your entire course.

[Register for Fresh and Easy? Authentic Assessment for the Communication Studies OER Classroom in the Age of AI](#)

Wednesday, March 11, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Adapting Open Educational Resources (OER) for Education Courses: How Do I Add or Change Content? Or Can I?

Want to include, or update education OER content in your course but don't understand what you are allowed to do legally, or how to begin? Bring your questions about specific content in an education OER and the licenses associated with it and let us help you clarify the multi-dimensional aspects of creative commons licensing. You will walk away with a list of do's and don'ts for the content that matters most to you.

[Register for Adapting OER for Education Courses](#)

Friday, March 13, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Owning the Curriculum: How a Spanish Program Replaced Commercial Textbooks with Open Educational Resources (OER)

Commercial language textbooks are costly and often rely on generic, outdated content disconnected from today's students. In this webinar, the author of *Salón de Clase*, an intermediate Spanish textbook for educational professionals, will outline the collaborative process, key stakeholders, and guiding pedagogical principles that lead to the development of this OER. Additionally, participants will learn how curriculum ownership enabled the integration of custom tools like My Language Level (an app based on can-do statements) into instruction.

[Register for Owning the Curriculum: How a Spanish Program Replaced Commercial Textbooks with OER](#)

Tuesday, March 17, 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Agriculture Business and Open Educational Resources (OER) Conversation

Join your agriculture business colleagues to connect and explore how OER can support teaching and learning.

[Register for Agriculture Business and OER Conversation](#)

Friday, March 20, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

What Does Information Technology and Information Systems (ITIS) Need in Open Educational Resources (OER)?

This session will be a guided conversation focused on the OER needs of ITIS programs. We'll discuss gaps in existing materials, challenges to adoption, and opportunities for creating, adapting, or sharing OER that better support ITIS courses and students. Participants will share experiences, identify priorities, and explore next steps for building sustainable, high-quality OER for the ITIS discipline.

[Register for What Does ITIS Need in OER](#)

Tuesday, March 24, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Exploring Open Educational Resources (OER) for ENGL C1001: A Conversation for English Faculty

Wondering how OER can align with the new ENGL C1001 framework? This conversation offers English faculty space to exchange perspectives, review available OER materials, and identify where additional resources may be needed. Come with questions, insights, or curiosities; your input will help shape next steps toward a

sustainable zero-textbook-cost ENGL C1001.

[Register for Exploring OER for ENGL C1001: A Conversation for English Faculty](#)

Thursday, March 26, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Using Open Educational Resources (OER) to Design Unique Engineering Course Materials

The cost and accessibility of textbooks can serve as a barrier to student success. Yet in many lower-division engineering courses, instructors use textbooks not only as a reference and a guide for students, but also as a source of homework and exam problems. In this webinar, participants will explore several OER designed to support lower-division engineering coursework and discuss strategies to incorporate open materials into assignments and exams.

[Register for Using OER to Design Unique Engineering Course Materials](#)

Friday, March 27, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

American Sign Language (ASL): Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) and Open Educational Resources (OER)

Join us for a conversation about the ASL OER that are currently available or under development. Together we will explore how to use OER and other resources to get your courses to ZTC.

[Register for ASL: ZTC and OER](#)

Physics and Open Educational Resources (OER) Office Hours

The OERI is pleased to offer a series of Physics Open Educational Resources (OER) office hours throughout the term. These office hours will serve as a conversational 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. All the following sessions will be from 9:00 am – 10:00 am.

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on Tuesday, March 10](#)

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on Thursday, March 19](#)

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on Friday, March 27](#)

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on Thursday, April 9](#)

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on Thursday, April 17](#)

[Register for Physics OER Office Hours on Thursday, April 21](#)

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 conversational 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 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](#)