

ASCCC OERI September 2026 OER Liaison Newsletter

As a new term starts, the OERI is preparing for an already busy year. We hope to see many of you at our upcoming in-person events and we're thinking ahead to scheduling more in-person events next term. If your college would be interested in hosting a regional event, [please let us know \(oeri@asccc.org\)](mailto:oeri@asccc.org). Although the academic year is just starting, we're already hearing about concerns related to ZTC reporting and COOL4Ed submissions. Our 1st Friday Forum on September 18 will focus on these issues – and Chad Funk from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office will be present to answer your questions. Please share your questions and concerns with your Regional Lead prior to this webinar to help inform the conversation. If you are uncertain about how and what to submit to COOL4Ed, please hold those submissions until you receive additional guidance. More information is forthcoming – and our 1st OERL webinar will focus on this topic. Welcome back!

• Fall 2026 Regional Leads •

Mirroring the ASCCC, [the OERI divides the state into four geographic regions](#): Areas A, B, C, and D. Area A (Central Valley, Sacramento, far North) OERLs will now be supported by Andi Adkins Pogue from Cosumnes River College. The OERI is pleased to welcome Andi to our leadership team. We're also happy to share that Heather Dodge has returned to her role as Area B (Bay Area) Regional Lead. Please note that two of our former Regional Leads have moved into new roles: Amanda Taintor has transitioned from Area A to the OERI Distance Education Lead and Cristina Moon from Area B is focusing solely on her role as the OERI ADAPT Lead. Area C (Los Angeles and beyond) and Area D (Orange County and San Diego) will continue to be supported by Kevin Smith and Rachel Fleming, respectively.

• Fall 2026 OER Liaison (OERL) Expectations •

All OER Liaisons need to document their Fall 2026 OER Liaison "attendance" activities using the [Fall 2026 Liaison Tracking Spreadsheet](https://tinyurl.com/OERL-2026F) (tinyurl.com/OERL-2026F). OERLs are expected to complete – and document – their activities by Wednesday, December 9. Access the [Fall 2026 OERL Expectations document](#) for more information. Please note that you should be attending or viewing a Fall 2026 Kick-Off by October 9. Contact your Regional Lead for any questions or concerns. Presentation slides and a recording of a Kick-Off will be archived on the [OERI website in the OER Liaisons tab](#) under "OER Liaison Expectations".

[Register for the Fall 2026 OER Liaison Kick-Off, Tuesday, September 8, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm](#)

[Register for the Fall 2026 OER Liaison Kick-Off, Friday, September 25, 10:00 am – 11:00 am](#)

• Alternatives to COOL4Ed •

As a reminder, only new OER created with ZTC dollars need to be submitted to COOL4Ed. To ensure the usefulness of COOL4Ed, minor modifications of existing OER (adaptations and remixes) should generally not be added to COOL4Ed. If more than 30–50% of the content (by volume or pedagogical impact) is new, restructured, or substantially changed, it is reasonable to consider it a new resource rather than a minor adaptation. OER that are adapted or remixed with minor changes should be reported to the OERI with an overview of the changes made. The OERI will make these resources available and report this information to the CCCCCO. [Access the OER Project Update Submission Form](#) to share your ZTC-funded minor adaptations. If a bulk upload process is desired and/or you are uncertain as to whether to include your OER in COOL4Ed or via the process referenced here, [please contact the OERI for assistance](#) (oeri@asccc.org). Sharing a modified OER with the OERI will fulfill the reporting requirement for these resources.

Additionally, the OERI has created a form to collect library resources that are used to achieve ZTC status. [Access Library Resources: E-book Options to Support the Establishment of Zero Textbook Cost \(ZTC\) Course Sections](#) (tinyurl.com/OERILib4ZTC).

• OER Liaison Events – September 2026 •

While OERL events are intended for OERLs, **please invite your colleagues to attend if you think they would be interested.**

Monday, September 28, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Who's on the Other End? Making COOL4Ed Submissions Work for the Next Faculty Member

Somewhere out there is a faculty member at another college searching COOL4Ed for exactly what you built. Will they be able to use it? To date, over 110 submissions have been made to the portal, and a review of them reveals how often the answer is no — not because the work is poor, but because the submission does not provide sufficient context for the next person to fully understand what has been provided and how to use it. Join us for a practical look at what makes a ZTC submission genuinely useful and bring your questions.

[Register for Who's on the Other End? Making COOL4Ed Submissions Work](#)

• 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 please adapt it to your college culture. Also note that as an OERL, you are automatically signed up for our general newsletter. The general newsletter can easily be forwarded 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.

• ASCCC OERI Seeking New Lead: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Anti-Racism (IDEA) •

The OERI is currently recruiting a faculty member to assume the role of the OERI IDEA Lead. The IDEA Lead must be able to work independently to set goals and identify ways to continue the OERI's IDEA work. As a member of the OERI leadership team, the IDEA Lead will meet regularly with the rest of the team to participate in planning, information sharing, and problem solving. While OER experience is desired, it is one of many factors that will be considered when reviewing applications. Below are additional details for the position.

ASCCC OERI IDEA Lead (20 – 40% reassigned time)

The ASCCC OERI IDEA Framework Lead is involved in implementing the [IDEA Framework](#) by informing discipline-based application of the framework through work with OERI Discipline Leads, providing guidance regarding the implementation of the Framework at the local level, and assisting faculty developing OER in incorporating IDEA principles into their projects. IDEA Lead activities also include increasing the availability of trained IDEA reviewers as well as developing and implementing a process for selecting and refining OER through application of the framework.

IDEA Lead Minimum Qualifications

- California community college faculty (full-time or part-time)
- Expertise or training in IDEA principles

IDEA Lead Desired Qualifications

- Experience with applying the OERI's IDEA Framework
- Knowledge and /or experience applying IDEA concepts
- Scholarly expertise in anti-racism
- Lived experience in marginalized communities
- OER author or adopter

Application Procedure

Interested parties should apply no later than October 5, 2026. Please submit a letter describing your interests and qualifications to the [ASCCC OERI \(oeri@asccc.org\)](mailto:oeri@asccc.org). Both the [ASCCC OERI Application](#) and the [ASCCC Faculty Application for Statewide Service](#) also need to be completed.

• OERI Discipline Leads Wanted •

The OERI is recruiting Discipline Leads for the 2026 – 2027 academic year. 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.

Why Be an OERI Discipline Lead? (AKA OERI Discipline Lead Information Session)

Tuesday, September 15, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Discipline Leads are a critical component of the Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI) ecosystem, serving as a resource for their colleagues and curating the OERI's collection for their discipline. As the OERI transitions into its role in as support for the system's ZTC efforts, the Discipline Lead role is of even greater importance as new OER supported with ZTC funds are introduced and the OERI strives to identify – and eventually meet – unmet OER needs. The OERI welcomes applications from all disciplines and does not require prior experience with OER. Join this webinar to learn about the role and, hopefully, be convinced to [submit an application](#). [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.

- Agriculture – Animal Sciences and Plant Sciences
- Alternative Fuels and Advanced Transportation Technology
- Asian American Studies
- Commercial Music
- Data Science
- Dental Assistant
- Electronics
- Emergency Medical Services
- Ethnic Studies
- Fire Technology
- Health
- Health Information Technology
- History
- Humanities
- Nursing
- Office Technology/Business Information Worker
- Public Health
- Social Justice Studies
- Welding Technology

• ASCCC OERI Fall 2026 Regional Meetings - Introduction to Remixing and Open Homework Systems •

The OERI, in collaboration with [San Diego Community College District](#) and [Monterey Peninsula 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, October 2, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm at San Diego College of Continuing Education – North City Campus](#)
- [Register for Friday, October 23, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm at Monterey Peninsula College](#)

• OERI Events – Friday Forums •

During the Fall 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 December 4. 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, September 18, 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Reporting and COOL4Ed: What You Need to Know

As the academic year begins, many local ZTC leads are concerned about existing and upcoming deadlines. What does it mean to “implement a pathway” by Fall 2026 or 2027? What reporting must happen by January 29, 2027? What happens if you don’t meet these deadlines? And what, when, and how do you submit OER to COOL4Ed? Join us for an overview of expectations, deadlines, and answers to your questions. Come for the updates, stay for the solutions—and leave knowing what you need to do next.

[Register for ZTC Reporting and COOL4Ed: What You Need to Know](#)

• 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 is an informal discussion. 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.

Many of this year’s Discipline Lead webinars will focus on new OER that have been added to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. In addition, discipline surveys are scheduled to be distributed this year that are intended to gather adoption data and

identify unmet discipline needs. Consequently, some webinars may seek input from attendees regarding aspects of the discipline's survey.

Thursday, September 10, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Open Educational Resources (OER) for Anthropology – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available anthropology OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.

[Register for OER for Anthropology - New Resources and the State of the Discipline](#)

Friday, September 11, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Open Educational Resources (OER) for Political Science – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available political science OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.

[Register for OER for Political Science - New Resources and the State of the Discipline](#)

Friday, September 18, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Open Educational Resources (OER) for Psychology – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available psychology OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.

[Register for OER for Psychology – New Resources and the State of the Discipline](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Open Educational Resources (OER) for Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Child Development (CHDEV) – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available ECE and CHDEV OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.

[Register for OER for ECE and CHDEV – New Resources and the State of the Discipline](#)

Friday, September 25, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Open Educational Resources (OER) for Sociology – New Resources and the State of the Discipline

As of Fall 2026, most new pathways funded with Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Degree Program dollars are required to be implemented and many colleges have added new resources to COOL4Ed as required by the ZTC legislation. Join us for an overview of newly available sociology OER, to share what OER you're working on, and/or to discuss your unmet OER needs.

[Register for OER for Sociology – New Resources and the State of the Discipline](#)