Sustaining Open Education At U.S. Community Colleges

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Welcome to CCCOER

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Mission of community colleges

• Open Access
• Teaching vs. Research
• Degree Completion

1200 U.S. community colleges
Undergraduate students who attend community colleges:
45%

Students who attend in California:
20%

Students aged 25-39 years:
45%
Students who study part-time: 60%
Students who are employed full-time: 40%
Students who are first in family to attend college: 40%
Rising Cost of Textbooks

CPI: College Textbooks vs. CPI: All Items vs. CPI: Recreational Books, Jan. 1998 to July 2013

All indexes = 100 in January 1998

CPI: College Textbooks +142.5%
CPI: All Items +44%
CPI: Recreational Books +1.6%

Source: BLS
OER Sustainability Perspectives

• Maricopa college district in Arizona

• Public higher education in California

• National workforce training for colleges
You can either see a hundred weeds or a hundred wishes
OER STARTED WITH SMALL SCALE PROJECTS
Flowers growing through the brick and mortar traditions
MORE AND MORE OER PROJECTS
Began to sprout
AND WERE TENDED TO

In a strategic manner
OER PROJECTS BECAME COLLABORATIVE
AND BEGAN TO EVOLVE
EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE was shared across institutions
Progress is being made
OER HAS BEEN SPREADING
OER IS BEING SHOWCASED AND SHARED
Providing sustenance:
As more faculty adopt OER, students are requesting it as an option in their courses.
California Open Textbook Project

3 Million Students Enrolled
Open Textbook Legislative Initiative

• Introduced in late 2011 to help students affected by cut backs due to recession.
State Bills 1052, 1053

- Establish faculty council to identify top 50 courses and peer review process.

- Establish a curated collection of OER for California faculty and students.
Unique Funding

- Legislation required matching funds with California State up to $5 million

- Initial matching funds were identified at the Hewlett Foundation end of 2013.
Current Status

• Top 50 courses: articulation & impact

• Peer review process in-design

• Faculty, student surveys online

• Faculty OER Adopter ePortfolios
Faculty ePortfolios

U.S. History to 1877
HIST 130
Dr. Sarah Mergel, Dalton State College
Discipline/Interests: American Political, Intellectual, and Diplomatic History

Dr. Sarah Mergel

History should be about more than just facts; it should be about evaluating and understanding the decisions and events that have shaped our world. I help students to gain a greater curiosity about the past as well as develop the ability to think critically outside of the classroom. Furthermore, I want to challenge preconceived notions about history by showing students how knowledge about

U.S. History Survey 1

Surveys the history of colonial America and the United States from the first European encounters with the New World through the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will articulate an understanding of major forces and events, influences, or ideas that have shaped history and society.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate and analyze perspectives and values of diverse cultural groups and their historical experiences in

Student feedback or participation

In a survey of students in my summer courses, most respondents had not used a digital textbook before. However, the consensus was they liked having access to a free book and they found the format convenient. Some of the comments included:

- I like the text book and the fact that it is free is awesome!
- Provides loads of useful information.
- Having a low cost alternative is huge for someone like me who does not have $100 or more for a textbook.
- It is a great textbook and I was happy to know it was free!

Changing this up

Cost savings

So far, the book is saving my DSC students at least $22 if they were to buy a new printed version in the campus bookstore. In the past three
National Workforce Training with OER
U.S. Department of Labor

• National Workforce Retraining

• Global Economy
  – Outsourced jobs
  – Low paying jobs
  – Obsolete skills
Funding Model

• $2 Billion over 4 years starting in 2011
• Grants provided to community colleges
• Create certificate programs that can be completed in under 2 years
• Lead to “mid-skill” level jobs with living wages.
College/Employer Partnerships

% GRANTEES DEVELOPING CURRICULA IN SHARED FIELDS OF STUDY

Bridging - Basic Education

Health

Manufacturing

Energy

Transportation

Information Technology

DOL TAACCCT Round 1 Data Analysis by Paul Stacey 20-Feb-2013
Open License Requirement

• CC-BY licensing ensures that materials developed with grant funds result in work that can be freely reused and improved upon.
Current Status

• First-wave TAACCCCT projects complete fall 2014
• OER Repository solution in-process
Questions for Panelists

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