OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Dr. Tanya Spilovoy, Director of Open Policy
WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
NORTH DAKOTA
What people think ND is like

What ND is actually like
WCET is the leader in the practice, policy, & advocacy of technology-enhanced learning in higher education. WCET is a national, member-driven, non-profit which brings together colleges and universities, higher education organizations and companies to collectively improve the quality and reach of e-learning programs.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is representative of the WCET membership, makes recommendations on programmatic issues of interest to the membership, and leads and/or contributes to activities in support of WCET's programs and membership.

Chair, Leah Matthews
“STILL HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN COLLEGE”

36% of college students say they are food insecure.
36% say they are housing insecure
9% report being homeless

Community College students:
42% struggled to get adequate food
9% said they had gone at least one day/month without eating
46% said they had difficulty paying for housing and utilities
DOE-$5 Million for OER

We believe that educational opportunities should be available to all learners.

Creating an open education ecosystem involves making learning materials, data, and educational opportunities available without restrictions.
Three-year persistence by parents' education

[Bar chart showing persistence rates by parents' education:
- Total: Stayed on track (56%), Left persistence track (19%), Left without return (24%)
- First generation: Stayed on track (48%), Left persistence track (19%), Left without return (33%)
- Parent(s) attended some college: Stayed on track (53%), Left persistence track (21%), Left without return (26%)
- Parent(s) earned a bachelor's degree: Stayed on track (67%), Left persistence track (19%), Left without return (14%)

Credential Attainment by Race and Ethnicity

Factoring in race and ethnicity

Even as the nation makes progress, educational attainment remains unequal across racial and ethnic groups. In our society, where real opportunity depends on learning beyond high school, these persistent inequities harm us all as Americans.

Education beyond high school is key to increasing economic opportunity and social mobility. That’s why we know that, to achieve the 60 percent goal, we must close gaps by race, ethnicity, income, and immigration status.

http://strongernation.luminafoundation.org/report/2018
Postsecondary Student Characteristics

‘New Normal’ Students in Higher Education

74% of all undergraduate students have at least one nontraditional characteristic

66% transfer between institutions prior to completion
62% work either full or part time
43% attend part time

28% have at least one dependent
35% are enrolled in two-year colleges
63% are first-gen students


http://tech.ed.gov/HigherEdNETP
STRUGGLING STUDENTS
THE COST OF COLLEGE

- $1.44 trillion in total U.S. student loan debt
- 44.2 million Americans with student loan debt
- Student loan delinquency rate of 11.2% (90+ days delinquent or in default)
- Average monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): $351
- Median monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): $203

(NY Federal Reserve. 2016)
Average Estimated Undergraduate Budgets, 2016-17

Books & Supplies = $1,200+

Source: College Board
College textbook prices have risen 812% since 1978, and 65% of students have sometimes chosen not to buy the textbook, even though 94% of students believe it will affect their grade. (Center of the Public Interest Research)
STUDENTS VS TEXTBOOKS

- Purchase an older edition of a textbook
- Delay purchasing a textbook
- Never purchase a textbook
- Share the textbook with another student
- Download textbooks from the internet
In your academic career, has the cost of required textbooks caused you to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
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<td>26.1%</td>
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<td>17.0%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
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- Not purchase the required textbook
- Take fewer courses
- Not register for a specific course
- Earn a poor grade
- Drop a course
- Fail a course

YOU KEEP USING THAT WORD

I DO NOT THINK IT MEANS WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS
WHAT ARE OER?

Open educational resources (OER) are freely available learning materials that can be downloaded, edited and shared to better serve all students. (William and Flora Hewlett Foundation)

This means all students have access to free learning materials the first day of class.
WHAT ARE OPEN TEXTBOOKS?

Open Textbooks are textbooks that are freely available with non-restrictive licenses. Covering a wide range of disciplines, open textbooks are available to download and print in various file formats from several websites.

This means all students have access to free learning materials the first day of class.
PROMISING DATA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

OER show promise in improving student outcomes as supported by research, they provide more learning and authorship opportunities for faculty and students, and they are openly available to everyone.

Research shows that OER can contribute to higher rates of course completion in two- and four-year higher education programs without sacrificing performance in those courses.
With Creative Commons licenses, you are free to...

Copy
Share
Edit

Mix
Keep
Use

BY NC SA ND
WHERE TO FIND OER

- Rice University Open Stax https://openstax.org/subjects
- University of Minnesota Open Textbook Library https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/
- MIT Open Courseware https://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm
- Skills Commons https://www.skillscommons.org/
- Merlot https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm
- Phet Sims https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/category/physics
- Youtube https://youtu.be/OnYXFletWH4
By Fall 2019, CUNY students will have saved $8.1 million thanks to OER.

“But the impacts at CUNY have gone far beyond economics: These open resources are revolutionizing teaching and learning at our institution. Here are four powerful effects that aren’t just about cost savings.” ~Ann Fiddler, OER Librarian, CUNY

1. Faculty are reinvigorated about teaching

2. All students, regardless of their circumstances, have access to their learning materials from day one.

3. Student outcomes are improving- “In one math course using OER at CUNY, students scored 10 points higher on the final exam than and were three times as likely to pass the course as students using traditional textbooks.”

4. OER is all about collaboration—within and across states
Example: California

In 2016, the California government appropriated $5 million to support the creation of Zero Textbook Cost Degrees at the state’s community colleges. Among the justifications for the program were that the more than 100 institutions in that system could easily share and build upon each other’s work, so investing in one degree at one college, could lead to multiple degrees at multiple colleges. This follows a nationwide trend pioneered by Tidewater Community College in Virginia, and a 38-campus initiative led by the non-profit Achieving the Dream launched earlier this year.
“...higher education shall be equally accessible to all”
Z Initiative

Introducing the WCET Z Initiative, which promotes the policy and practice of OER implementation, creation, and sustainability.

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https://wcet.wiche.edu/initiatives/z-initiative

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LET’S TALK ABOUT OER! 😊