**DRAFT**

**Open Education Initiative Faculty Grants: A Collaboration of eEducation, the Teaching Council, and the Evans Library**

**First Draft March 15, 2019**

**Summary**

The [2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey](https://florida.theorangegrove.org/og/items/3a65c507-2510-42d7-814c-ffdefd394b6c/1/) found that “The high cost of textbooks is negatively impacting student access, success, and completion.” To improve student access to course materials, the Teaching Council, eEducation, and the Evans Library propose a new faculty incentive program –The Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Program to support Fl Tech faculty who are interested in adopting, adapting, or creating open educational resources (OER). Similar to the Open Access Subvention fund that the Library administrates, between $10,000 and $20,000 added to the the Library budget could be distributed to faculty as described in this proposal. We expect the benefits to be an increase in student retention and graduation as well as significant goodwill generated in students who often complain about the high cost of textbooks.

**Background and Introduction**

The [2016 Student Textbook and Course Materials Survey](https://florida.theorangegrove.org/og/items/3a65c507-2510-42d7-814c-ffdefd394b6c/1/) found that “The high cost of textbooks is negatively impacting student access, success, and completion.” Many universities are taking on Open Education initiatives to save students money, help with retention, and address the rising costs of education. Several are listed below. The programs differ in details but the goal of each is to sufficiently reward faculty so they will be willing invest time and effort creating resources that benefit students and other faculty. We believe it is important to provide technical and collaborative support, and funding to faculty who wish to invest in creative approaches to using or creating open and freely available educational materials for their courses. A draft plan is described in the proposal section of this document.

**Florida State University (**[https**:**//www**.**lib.fsu.edu/alttextbooks](https://www.lib.fsu.edu/alttextbooks)**)**

“During the 2018-19 academic year, ten grants of $1000 each are available for FSU faculty or instructors who are interested in adopting or remixing open textbooks and educational resources to replace commercial course materials. Proposals to replace commercial materials with Library-licensed electronic books or journal articles will also be considered.”

**Virginia Tech** (<https://guides.lib.vt.edu/oer/grants>)

Virginia Tech is in its third year of an incentive programto encourage the use, creation, and adaptation of openly licensed information. Awards are up to $3,000 per proposal.

“This effort supports Virginia Tech faculty who are interested in further sharing their original works as open educational resources (OER) as part of the university’s land grant mission. This effort also supports faculty who are interested in pursuing adaptation of open education resources and new forms of digital scholarship as alternatives to traditional textbooks and homework software access codes.”

**Portland State University** (<https://library.pdx.edu/services/pdxscholar-services/open-access-textbooks>)

“Portland State University Library has a Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Program “ to encourage the use, creation, and adaptation of openly licensed information resources to support our students’ learning.”

**Emory** (<http://sco.library.emory.edu/oer/index.html>)

The Emory Open Education Initiative (EOEI) encourages Emory faculty to find better and less costly ways to deliver instructional content to their students. “The program offered Emory faculty $1,000 mini-grants and an OER immersive training program. Participants used the grants to create or compile OERs, library materials, or faculty/student-generated content to use instead of traditional textbooks in the classroom. Between 2014-2016, EOEI awarded 11 mini-grants to Emory faculty.”

**Kansas State University** (<https://www.lib.k-state.edu/open-textbook>)

“The initiative is a grant program that provides funding to Kansas State University faculty and instructors to develop or adopt free alternatives to traditional print textbooks. The high cost of commercial print textbooks is a major concern for Kansas State University, students, and their parents. The initiative’s goal is to encourage the implementation of cost-saving texts for students while improving the quality of the learning process.”

**University of Oklahoma** (<http://guides.ou.edu/atg>)

“The OU Libraries' Alternative Textbook Grant (ATG) incentivizes instructors to abandon costly course materials in favor of those available to their students for free. Since 2014, the Alternative Textbook Grant has saved OU students $2.3M in course material costs contributing to the North American [open education movement's total savings of $1B](https://libraries.ou.edu/content/ou-student-savings-contributes-1-billion-milestone-through-open-educational-resources) for the same time period. **OU Libraries awards up to $2,500 for successful applications and CAS, CoE, and PACS have agreed to award discretionary matching funds.**  Faculty in those colleges have the potential to receive $5,000 for their implementations of alternative course materials.”

**Proposal**

**Florida Tech Open Education Resource (OER) Grant Program**

Student success is impacted by ready access to learning materials. To improve access the Teaching Council, eEducation, and the Evans Library are pleased to announce a new faculty incentive program –The Open Educational Resources (OER) Grant Program –. This effort supports Fl Tech faculty who are interested in adopting, adapting, or creating open educational resources (OER) and new forms of digital scholarship as alternatives to traditional textbooks, homework/problem sets, and exams.

The OER Grant Program is a faculty incentive program that encourages the creation of new teaching materials and models, the use of existing open (free) information resources to support student learning, and the use of library subscription materials. The program strategically supports Florida Tech’s effort to greatly reduce textbook costs and address college affordability for students

There are multiple routes to making textbooks more accessible. Due to the different levels of effort involved, there will be different levels of compensation:

1. Adopt OER: Redesign course to incorporate OER content that already exists and has been developed into comprehensive course materials, including supplemental materials such as test questions, presentation slides, and handouts. This includes small edits or changes to an already existing OER. $1000 - $2,000 depending on # of students enrolled and necessary resources
2. Adapt OER: Combine or remix new or existing openly licensed content to bridge gaps in available resources. $3,000 - $5,000
3. Open Access Textbook Creation: Create an open access textbook that is designed specifically for the course that you teach. $6,000 - $8,000

The development or adoption of open or alternative resources may include any of the following or a combination:

* An existing open access textbook (see [Resources to Find Open Textbooks](https://libguides.lib.fit.edu/affordable-textbooks/faculty))
* Library resources
* High quality [open educational resources](https://www.edutopia.org/open-educational-resources-guide) (OER)
* Multimedia resources found on the open web (e.g., TedTalks, YouTube videos, [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page))
* Faculty-authored materials

Completed applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and reviewed as they are received.

**Criteria for Grant Proposals:**

* Replace required course materials with less expensive or free alternatives
* Replacement materials must be ADA-compliant
* Course materials cannot exceed $20/credit total (this places the initiative in line with Florida Public Universities <https://affordabilitycounts.org/>)
* Plan to implement the OER in class for at least two terms; the use of OER materials in more than one section is encouraged
* Report enrollment for each term the OER is in use
* Departmental support to participate
* Must replace required course materials worth approximately $100 or more

**How will applications be evaluated?**

OER grant applications will be evaluated using a rubric that balances the following criteria to prioritize impact and collaboration:

* Estimated savings to Florida Tech students
* Openness of proposed content, with openly licensed content given preference over library-licensed materials
* Inclusion of a clear plan to assess student learning outcomes
* Potential for proposed content to be adopted by other courses or sections
* Departmental commitment (i.e., letter of support from department chair or dean)
* Ability to adapt or produce a quality product and actively engage students in the learning process
* Ability to be implemented in the coming year
* Sustainability of the resource beyond the initial use
* Willingness or ability to license the resource for re-use or adaption at Florida Tech or beyond

**Review panel**

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of a representative from the Teaching Council, a member of Instructional Technologies and a representative from the Evans Library.

**Expectations of grantee**

All grantees will be required to:

* Submit brief reports (1-2 pages) reflecting on their experience with their open/alternative textbook and the outcomes after the first semester of implementation including summarizing the challenges and accomplishments of their experience creating/finding/using the materials, the impact on their teaching, the impact on students and their performance, and lessons learned. Reports will be due approximately a month after the end of the semester in which faculty have implemented their textbook for the first time.
* Meet at the end of the academic year to compare experiences, share findings, and make recommendations concerning the program.
* Participate in OER Grantees Workshop
* Participate in long range assessments of the OER Grant Program
* Provide a copy of the revised syllabus or course outline used for the class
* Report enrollment for each term the OER is in use
* Deposit any openly licensed material created, including syllabus, into Florida Tech’s Scholarship Repository with an appropriate Creative Commons license of the grantee's choice: CC-BY, CC-BY-NC, CC-BY-SA, or CC-BY-NC-SA
* Complete a signed letter of agreement

**Grant Disbursement**

Funds will be distributed for professional travel expenses, technology, or software following procedures outlined in the letter of agreement. The remainder of funds will be transferred to the faculty member upon implementation of the OER resource in their course.

**Intellectual Property**

Property Creators retain ownership of their intellectual property. The University Libraries does not assert ownership of creators’ intellectual property. However, grantees are encouraged to license their projects with a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license and to make the works freely and publicly available via the internet.

Projects should be based upon the grantee’s own work, existing Creative Commons licensed works (allowing derivatives), or public domain works.

**Support Expectations**

The Evans Library will provide guidance and referrals in the areas of project design and development, finding existing openly licensed resources, Creative Commons licensing and attribution, Copyright, MOUs for paid and volunteer students working on projects, graphic design, website and E-publishing platforms, print-on demand solutions, instructional design, learning pedagogy, resource hosting/archiving, and metadata. We also recommend that the grantee meets with Open Education project team to discuss project needs, proposed timelines, anticipated project costs, communication plan, eventual outreach strategies, and any other questions; Submitted a peer review proposal (faculty and/or student)