Magna Online Seminars

Understanding
Open Educational Resources (OER):

A Powerful Solution for Both Faculty and Students

2-13-2020

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The Presenters

Oliver Dreon, PhD

Professor and Director, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Oliver Dreon teaches a wide variety of education and instructional technology courses both in face-to-face and online formats. Dreon has spent over twenty-five years teaching in various educational environments and provides regular professional development and consultation on teaching and learning in higher education. His work examines how technology can be used to support student development through physical, online, and hybrid learning spaces.

The Presenters

Greg Szczyrbak

Learning Technologies Librarian and Director, Digital Learning Studio,
Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Greg Szczyrbak enjoys working collaboratively to
explore the impact of technology on
learning. Szczyrbak has been an advocate for Open
Education supporting local and regional efforts
to increase awareness and use of Open Educational
Resources in Higher Education.

Learning Goals

- Describe research that demonstrates OER impact on student success and retention
- Find high quality open educational resources
- Use OER effectively to impact student learning
- Advocate for the use of OER as an alternative to high cost text

What is your experience with Open Educational Resources?

A) I have authored OER in my classes
B) I have used OER in my classes
C) I've heard of OER
D) I've never heard of OER

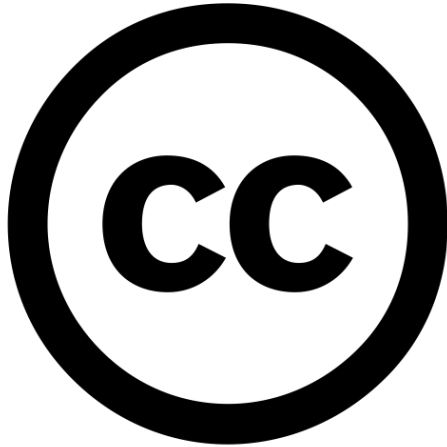# WHY SHOULD WE USE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES?
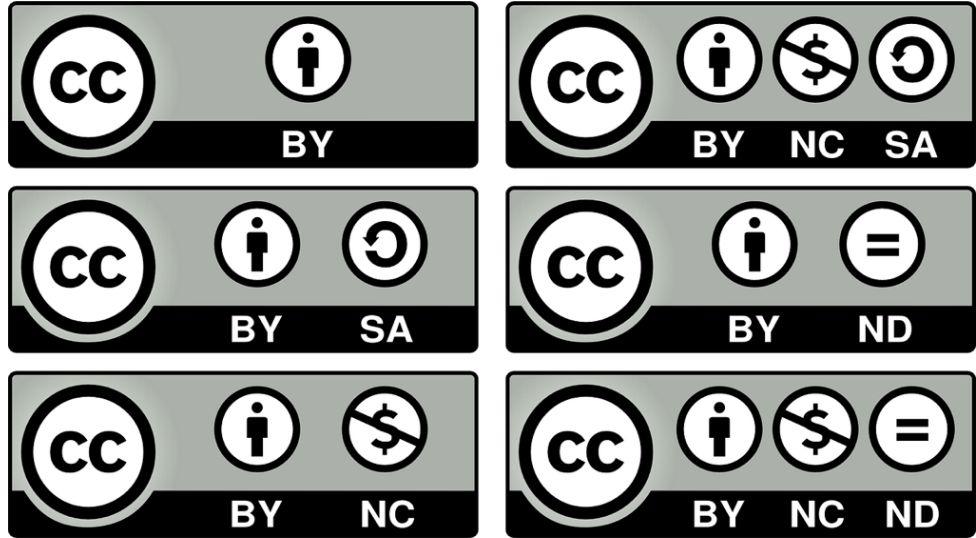
Rise in Textbook Costs
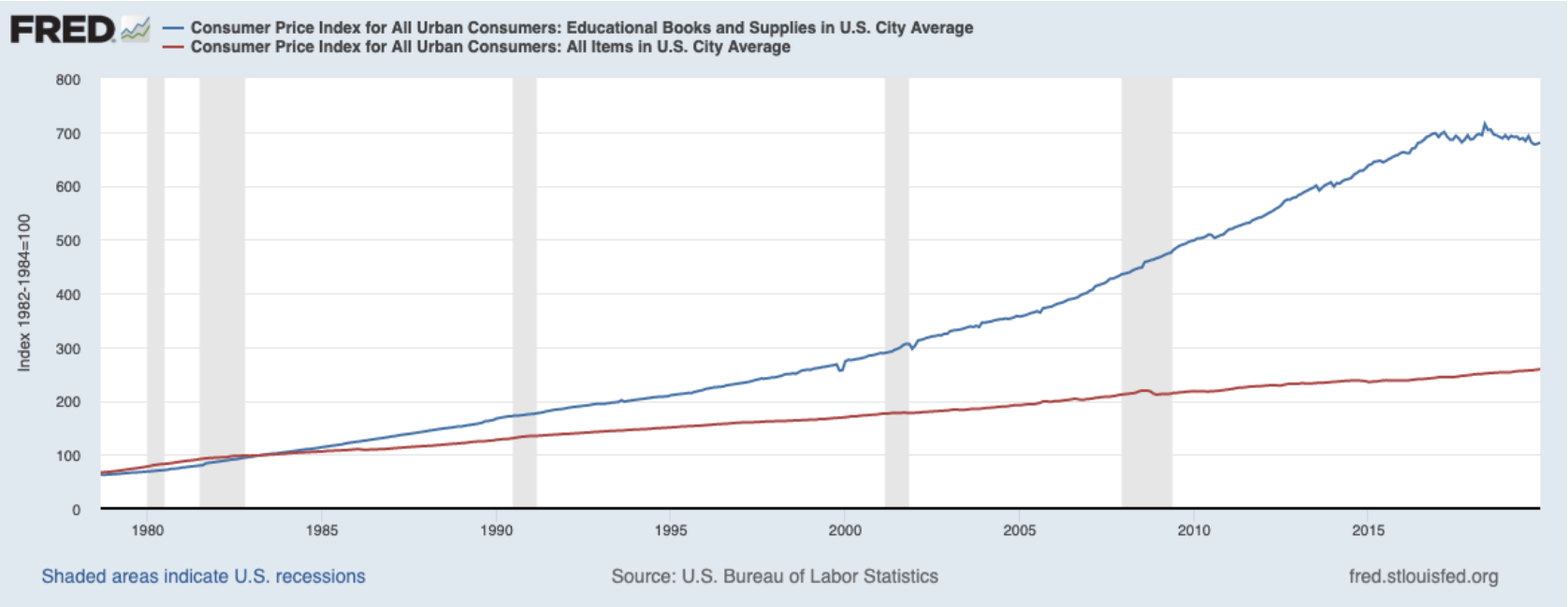
What is Open?

*"Open Educational Resources are teaching and learning materials that you may **freely** use and reuse, without charge. "*

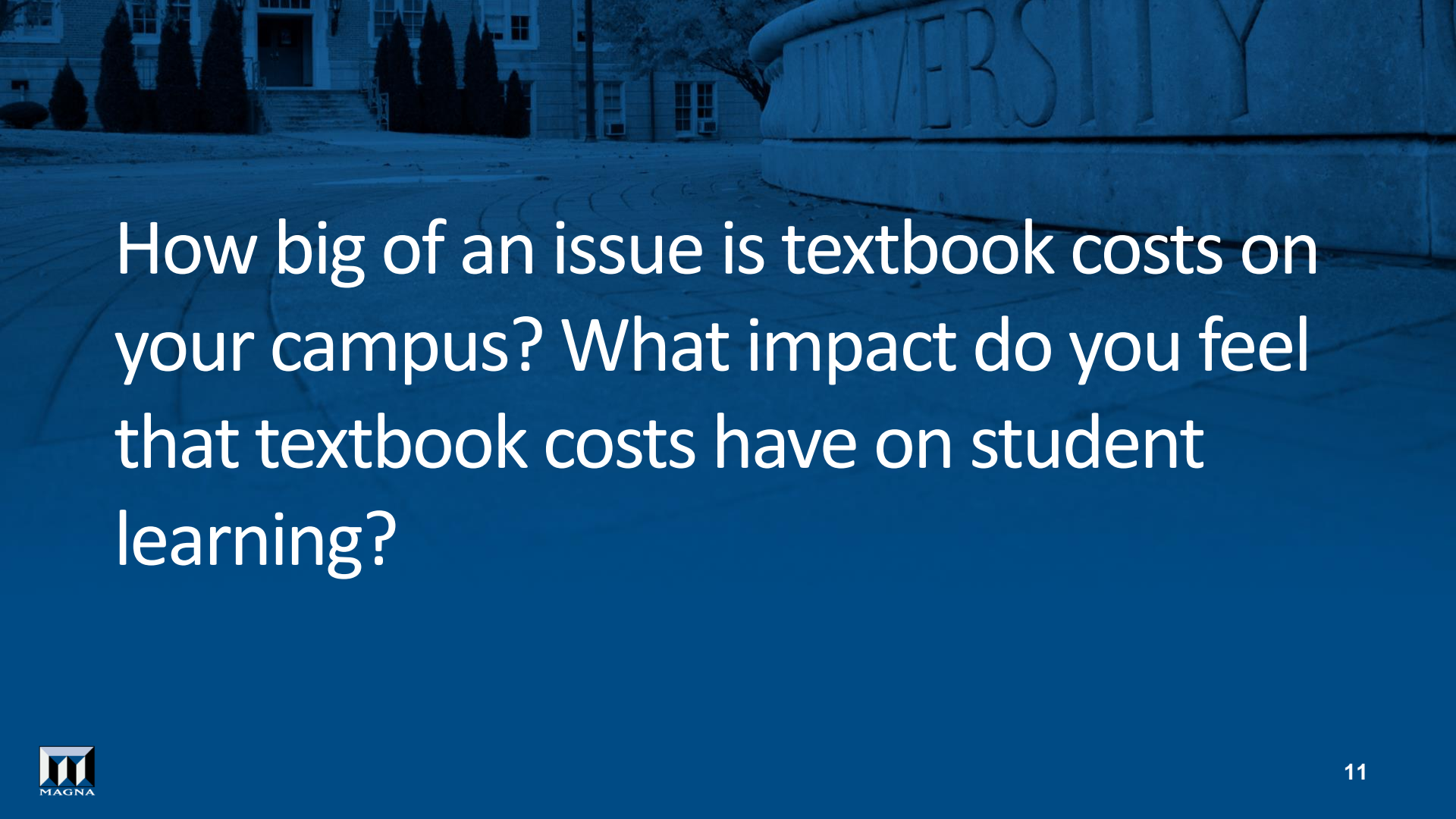*https://www.oercommons.org/about#about-open-educational-resources*

Creative Commons

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licenses-icons-by-783531/ CC0

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How big of an issue is textbook costs on your campus? What impact do you feel that textbook costs have on student learning?

Impact of Textbook Costs

In your academic career, has the cost of required textbooks caused you to:

	2012	2016
Not purchase the required textbook	63.6%	66.5%
Take fewer courses	49.2%	47.6%
Not register for a specific course	45.1%	45.5%
Earn a poor grade	33.9%	37.6%
Drop a course	26.7%	26.1%
Fail a course	17.0%	19.8%

http://www.openaccesstextbooks.org/pdf/2016_Florida_Student_Textbook_Survey.pdf

Review of OER Research

"Results across multiple studies indicate that students generally achieve the same learning outcomes when OER are utilized and simultaneously save significant amounts of money. Studies across a variety of settings indicate that both students and faculty are generally positive regarding OER."

Hilton, J. (2016). Open educational resources and college textbook choices: a review of research on efficacy and perceptions. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 64(4), 573-590.

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OER Impact on Retention

"the differences in withdrawal rates were quite clear; 21% of students in the commercial textbook condition withdrew from the course while only 6% of students in the OER condition withdrew from the course."

Engler, J. N., & Shedlosky-Shoemaker, R. (2018). Facilitating Student Success: The Role of Open Educational Resources in Introductory Psychology Courses. *Psychology Learning & Teaching*.

OER Impact on Retention & Student Success

21,822 students
8 courses
13 semesters

"OER improve end-of-course grades and decrease DFW rates for all students. They also improve course grades at greater rates and decrease DFW rates at greater rates for Pell recipient students, part-time students, and populations historically underserved by higher education"

Colvard, N. B., Watson, C. E., & Park, H. (2018). The Impact of Open Educational Resources on Various Student Success Metrics. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 30(2), 262-276.

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Poll: How do you perceive the quality of Open Educational Resources?
A) If it's free, it can't be any good.
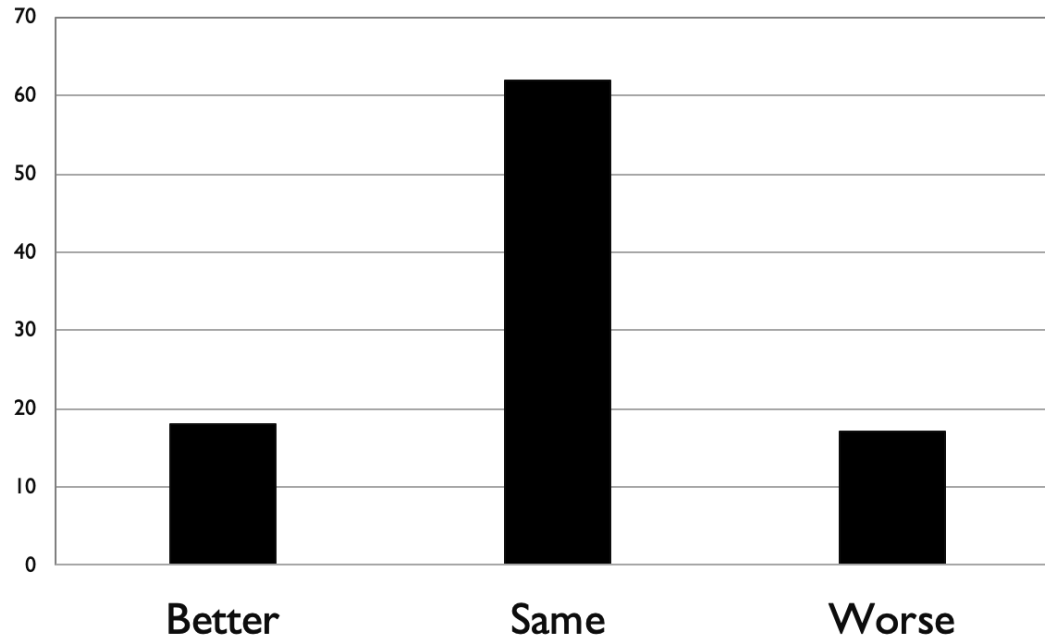B) It's got to be as good as the textbooks we already use.
C) Maybe it's better than the textbooks we already use.
D) I don't know...

Perceived OER quality
(as compared to traditional texts)

136 faculty who had used OERs in their classes

Jung E, Bauer, C, Heaps, A. (2017). Higher Education Faculty Perceptions of Open Textbook Adoption. *International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning*. 18(4):123-141.

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Faculty Reviews of Open Textbook Network (open.umn.edu)

2,021 reviews of texts in OTN directory

Student Perceptions
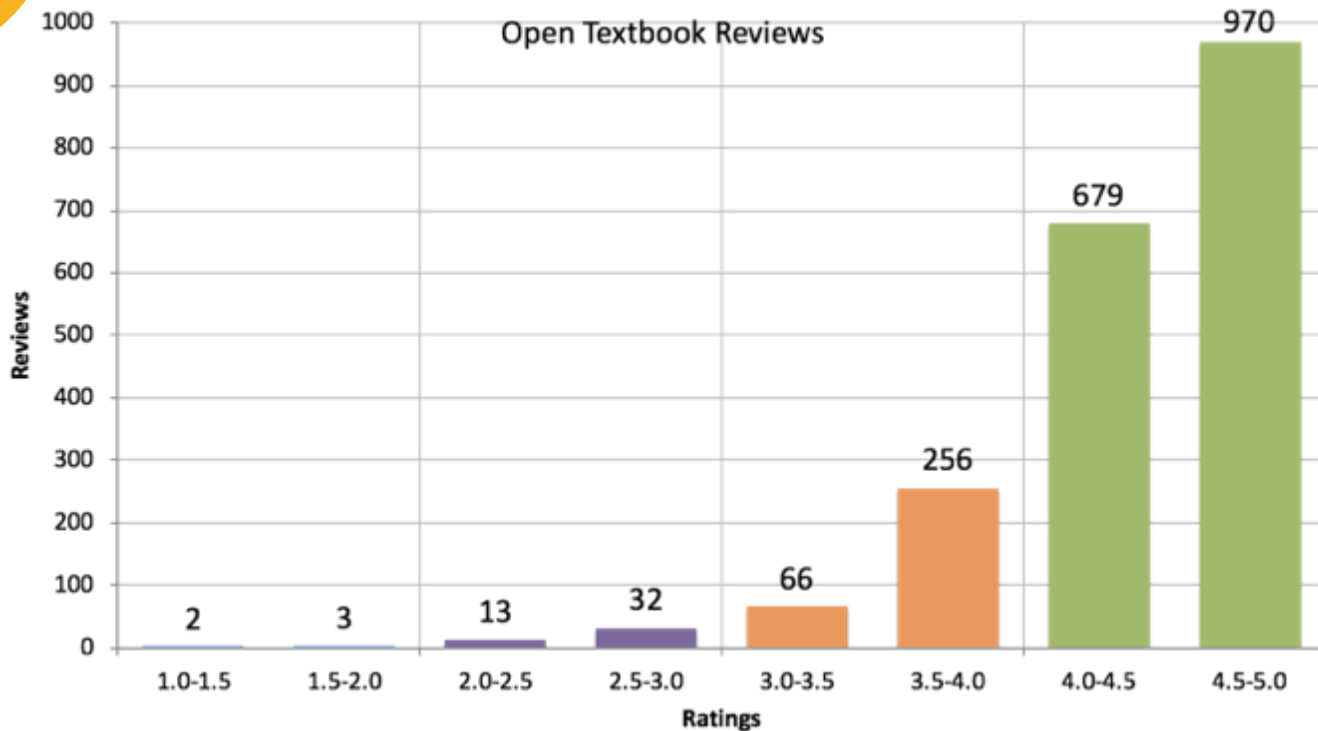
315 students surveyed

78% felt OER "provided access to more up-to-date material than is available in my print textbooks"

**95%** strongly agreed or agreed that OER were "easy to use"

66% either agreed or strongly agreed that the digital OER were more useful than traditional textbooks and stated they preferred OER to traditional textbooks.

Feldstein, A., Martin, M., Hudson, A., Warren, K., Hilton, J., & Wiley, D. (2012). Open textbooks and increased student access and outcomes. *European Journal of Open, Distance and E-Learning*.
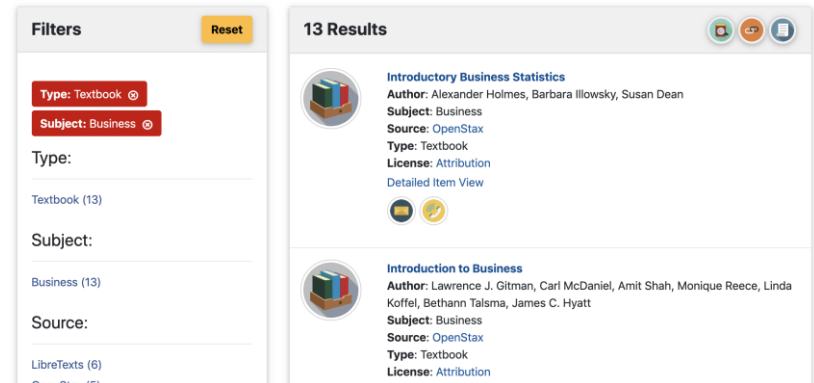
How do you get started....?

OASIS - Openly Available Sources Integrated Search

https://oasis.geneseo.edu/
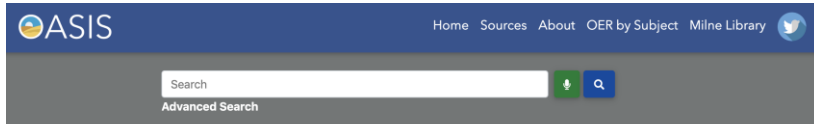
Directory of OER including textbooks, courses, simulations, modules, etc...

Developed By SUNY Geneseo's Milne Library

OER Working Group at Millersville University

Dr. Daniel Albert, Chemistry

Prof. Kim Auger, Library

Dr. Oliver Dreon, Education and Director of the Center for Academic Excellence

Mr. Matthew Fox, Instructional Designer

Prof. Krista Higham, Library

Dr. A. Nicole Pfannenstiel, English

Dr. Stephanie Pennucci, Library

Dr. Alex Redcay, Social Work

Dr. Christopher Stieha, Biology

Prof. Greg Szczyrbak, Library

Our Campus's Solution

- In Spring 2019, 16 faculty were provided $1000 professional development funds for replacing traditional textbooks with OER
- OTI faculty participated in semester-long Campus Learning Community
- OTI implemented in Summer 2019, Fall 2019 and Winter 2020
- Data from assessments & surveys are currently being analyzed
- OTI 2.0 will begin in February 2020

How to be an Advocate!

Don't work in isolation.

Understand what motivates faculty.

Educate community on the instructional and technological implications and impacts.

Recognize that different messages work with different stakeholders.

Questions?

Tell us what think

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OER021320

Thank you!