

Student Voice

“I always have an **anxiety attack the first week of class** because I know the process I have to go through to buy my books. I **borrow money, work late** to pick up extra hours to afford my books, try to buy used throughout the internet (most don't carry version required by class), or obtain a **short term high interest loan** to afford the books.”



ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Why Open Educational Resources (OER) (and ZTC) are the Answer to EVERYTHING

SSCCC Professional Development and Leadership Event
Saturday, October 2, 2021

• Why OER (and ZTC) are the Answer to Everything

- OER are openly licensed and modifiable resources for teaching and learning. While awareness and use of OER has increased over time, few appreciate the full range of benefits OER provide. OER are not merely the answer to the ever-increasing costs of commercial texts, they are also tools for decolonizing curriculum, fostering social justice, addressing inequities, promoting diversity and inclusion, increasing student success, and engaging students in novel ways. What do student leaders need to know about OER and California's \$115 million dollar investment in zero textbook cost (ZTC) degrees? What do students need to make OER resources truly work for them? Join us to learn - and share - ideas about the future of OER and ZTC in the CCCs.

Your Presenters

- Julie Bruno, Communication Studies, Sierra
 - ASCCC Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI)
Communications Lead
- Michelle Pilati, Psychology, Rio Hondo
 - ASCCC OERI Faculty Coordinator

Overview

- What is/are OER?
- Why OER?
- \$115
- What do students need to make OER resources truly work for them?

Student Voice

“...it becomes a **very heavy weight** while trying to support my family so its [it's] almost like **I have to ration myself in taking the courses I need** towards my degree.

I've often dropped courses simply because I couldn't [couldn't] afford the books or any alternatives to them. Like this semester Fall 2017, I love my classes and there [their] content but I have to drop one class because I really can't [can't] afford the books for anymore classes than the ones I have already. ...”

What are Open Educational Resources?

“OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or are released under an intellectual property license that permits their **free use and repurposing by others**”

-- Hewlett Foundation

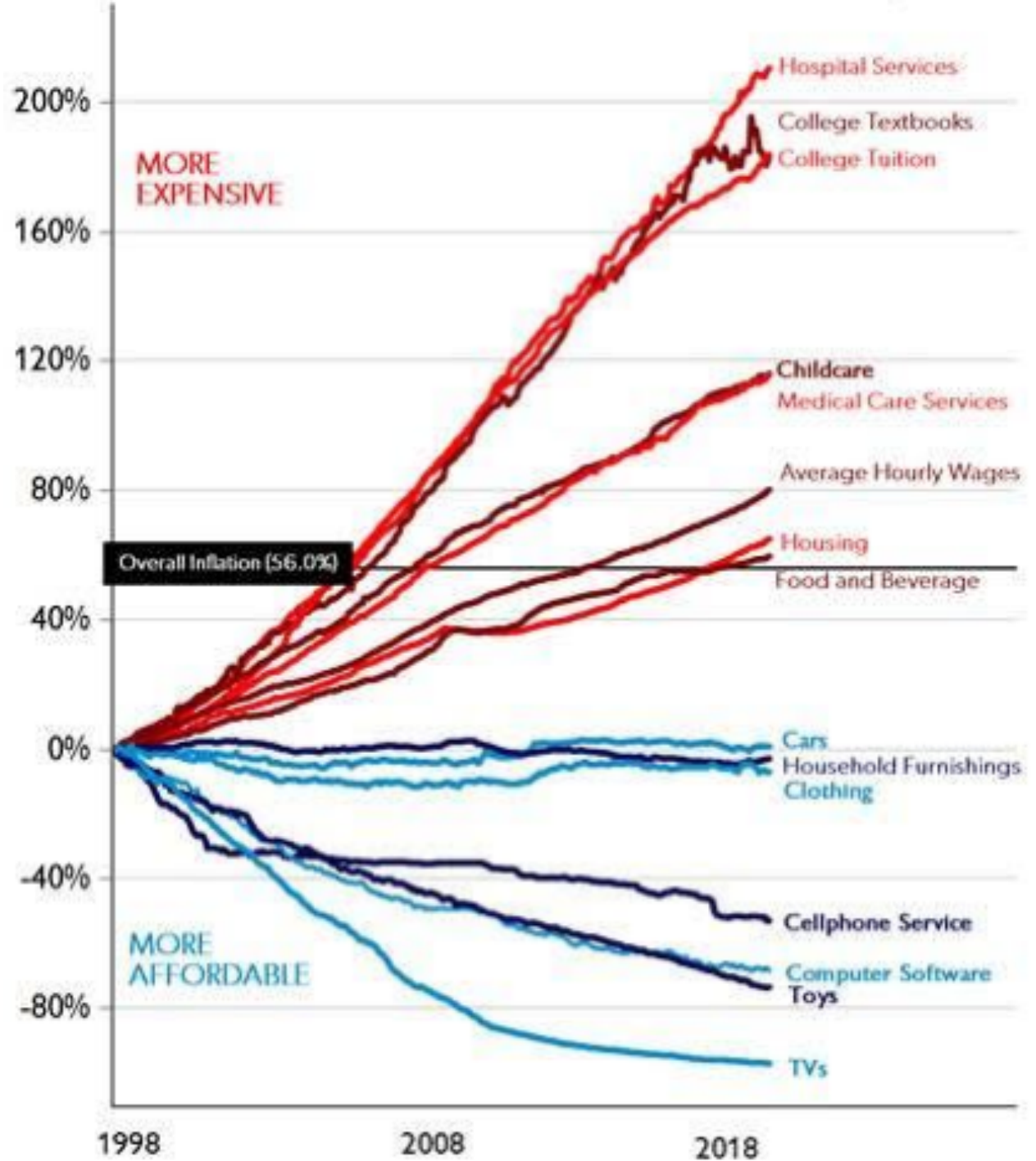
Why OER?

- Sky-rocketing textbook costs
 - Ensures access to resources is equitable
- Customizable
 - Remove elements that are not used
 - Re-order content to align with course schedule
 - Re-mix existing OER

Price changes (1998 - 2018)

Selected US
Consumer
Goods and
Services, Wages

Source: BLS
From the
American
Enterprise
Institute



OER and Academic Freedom

- “Academic freedom establishes a faculty member’s right to remain true to his or her pedagogical philosophy and intellectual commitments. It preserves the intellectual integrity of our educational system and thus serves the public good.”
- When OER are truly “open”, they can be modified in whatever way a faculty member chooses.
- Faculty are able to teach the course the way they want to teach it, not the way a publisher dictates...
- ... and do what is best for the students.

OER – The Ultimate in Academic Freedom

- Adapting OER - allows for customization, improvement and perfection
 - Improve explanations and descriptions
 - Update research, scenarios, case studies
 - Collaboration
 - Address biases
 - Modify language, images, examples
 - Add emphases
 - Enhance accessibility and useability
 - Introduce new ways of thinking

OER and IDEA

- IDEA stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism
- “Open” allows you to modify anything
- *What is claimed as “history” — in our everyday language and in institutions of power — is actually a mono-cultural, Western, “upper” Caste, white, male, straight and binary version of human experience. The tellers of history are those who have always had the powers to speak.*

•
(Aruna et al. 1:22)

OER Creates Opportunities

- Opportunity for improvements in design in open authoring and publishing
- Culturally responsive teaching with culturally responsive textbook examples
- Create resources relevant to students

IDEA

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism

Improvements can vary from small to large

- Biology text: Updating images and case studies to reflect our student body; including current understanding of sex and gender; adding diverse scientists.
- Spanish text: Modifications of gender pronouns
- Psychology text: Presenting gender as a non-binary concept
- Statistics for Social Justice Studies
- Collaborations

What do student leaders need to know about OER and California's \$115 million dollar investment in zero textbook cost (ZTC) degrees?

What \$115 million?

- Funds appropriated in trailer bill language
- 1st disbursement must happen in January 2022
- Many details yet to be determined

SEC. 60.

Section 78052 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that community college districts develop and implement:
 - zero-textbook-cost degrees and
 - develop OER for courses to reduce the overall cost of education for students and decrease the time it takes students to complete degree programs.

How are OER and ZTC related?

- OER is a subset of ZTC
- Cautions/reminders/realities
 - Not all OER is ZTC
 - Not all courses can be taught with OER
 - While OER may be the answer to everything, that does not mean that OER can do everything – but shouldn't true OER be the goal whenever possible?

Monumental news from California: Gov
[@GavinNewsom](#) approves unprecedented \$115 million
investment in Zero Textbook Cost degrees and [#OER](#)
at [@CalCommColleges](#). [#ZTC4CA](#)

"I am committed... in
addressing.. the racket
that is textbooks in this
country. Usurious costs
associated with textbooks
and so we will do more
this year... because we in
California have an
obligation to disrupt that
entire system nationwide."
– Governor Newsom



Source: [Rich Pedroncelli / Associated Press](#)

Why (real non-monetized) OER?

- \$115 million reasons
 - tinyurl.com/115forZTC
 - *Largest single investment in ZTC/OER in the known universe
 - We've got to get it right...
- *Not verified, but probably true. 😊

What's the “right” way to spend these funds?

- System-wide, systemic change – not new inequities
- Sustainable
- More than zero textbook course sections – better resources, better pedagogy

Why should OER be the preferred way to become ZTC?

- The power of open - Academic freedom, equity, student success
- Sustainability
- What do we do about those disciplines that just CAN'T "do" OER?

Non-OER Pathways to ZTC

- Current literature > Purchase paper copies – in bulk, perhaps?
- Copyright-dependent disciplines > Purchase or subscribe – create OER narrative to wrap around the restricted-use resources
- In other words – take steps to reduce costs and leverage buying power so that resources can be ZTC for students (college/district/system absorbs costs; reverts to low-cost when funds are not available)

The Legislation Redefines Zero

- “Zero-textbook-cost degrees” may include a low-cost degree option if a no-cost equivalent option is not available or cannot be developed
- Issues?
- Allowing “low-cost” to be recognized as “zero” is inconsistent with the definition of zero – and with the definitions previously adopted by the CCCCO.
- Zero needs to be zero.

The legislation says that the CCCCO shall ensure that...

- ...a grant does not result in the development or implementation of
- duplicate degrees for a subject matter to avoid duplication of effort and
- ensure the development and implementation of the greatest number of degrees for the benefit of the greatest number of students.
- What? How?

Sustainable? Non-duplicative?

- Develop degrees with consideration for sustainability after grant funding is exhausted, including how content is updated (yes!) and presented.
- Develop and implement a degree that other community college districts can use or adapt.
- The chancellor's office may distribute the grants in phases, including a planning phase and an implementation phase.

What do students need to
make OER resources truly
work for them?

We propose that...

- Students should know what a course will cost at the time of registration.
- Mitigate the effects on students if a change in instructor occurs.
- Printing of an OER should be readily available – as should library copies.
- “Low-cost” and “no-cost” should be differentiated.
- “Low-cost” should be defined in consultation with students.
- ZTC degrees should be available beyond the availability of the \$115 million.



**OPEN EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES INITIATIVE**

ACADEMIC SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

What do you need to make
OER resources truly work
for them?

More Information

- ASCCC OERI Website (asccc-oeri.org)
 - Resources
 - Webinars and Events
- ASCCC OER E-Mail (oeri@asccc.org)