Open Educational Resources for Mississippi Learners & Teachers

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Main Idea

- Cost of higher education is a fundamental issue for Mississippi families.

- You can't lower or impact many of those costs (e.g., tuition), but a small investment in Open Educational Resources will:

(1) lower student costs, sometimes dramatically;
(2) improve teaching and learning;
(3) promote faculty development.

What are Open Educational Resources?

David Wiley defines open educational resources by talking about their five special properties, or the five R's:

- Retain – the right to make, own, and control copies of the content
- Reuse – the right to use the content in a wide range of ways (e.g., in a class, in a study group, on a website, in a video)
- Revise – the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)
- Remix – the right to combine the original or revised content with other open content to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
- Redistribute – the right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend)

How have we used OER on our campus?

We created Z-Degree Mississippi.

It's a statewide initiative which invites faculty to develop their own OER and displace expensive textbooks. Now in our fifth year, we have been funded by both the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the University of Missisippi.

Faculty apply to join the program. (Applications are judged, in part, on their potential to displace as many expensive textbooks as possible.)

Once accepted, faculty spend January through August developing openly licensed course materials in consultation with Lumen Learning.

Faculty review existing OER which they can simply take, take and revise, or author themselves.

Highest award is $4,000.

Who has participated in this OER initiative?

Round 1
2015-2016
21 Instructors
14 Courses
1 CC
5 Universities
0 HBCU
6,125 Students
$116k Est. Savings

Round 2
2016-2017
50 Instructors
38 Courses
4 CCs
7 Universities
3 HBCUs
103,956 Students
$2.1M Est. Savings

Round 3a
2017-2018
13 Instructors
18 Courses
1 CC

4,087 Students
$1.1M Est. Savings

Round 3
2017-2018
33 Instructors
38 Courses
7 CC
7 Universities
2 HBCU
$1,574,375 Est. Savings

Round 4
2018-2019
24 Instructors
27 Courses
7 CC
7 Universities
2 HBCU
$1,161,000 Est. Savings

Round 5
2019-2020
33 Instructors
34 Courses
5 CC
4 Universities
2 HBCU
$1,359,137 Est. Savings

What do we want from OER?

Improved Access?

Is the point of Z-Degree Mississippi to lower textbook costs so that more students have access to content?

Improved Teaching?

Is the point of Z-Degree Mississipppi to help faculty customize their courses and improve their command of their own teaching and learning materials?

What do we want from OER?

Yes.

References

Wiley, David R. "The Access Compromise and the 5th R." https://opencontent.org/blog/archives/3221 5 March 2014.