Springfield Technical Community College
Open Educational Resources Annual Report

June 2017

**Introduction**
Over the past few years, Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) has worked to encourage and assist faculty to replace expensive textbooks with open, free, or more affordable course materials. This report will address the progress of this initiative, including the state of the project at the end of fiscal year 2017.

**Background**
The STCC OER initiative was started in 2014 by librarians Rachel Statham and Eric Warren. After forming an OER Task Force consisting of faculty, staff, and librarians, the team set out to measure faculty interest in open education as well as the need for reduced-cost learning materials. Two surveys were conducted during the Fall 2015 semester: one for students and one for faculty. The student questionnaire showed an overwhelming need among students for a reduction in textbook costs. The faculty questionnaire showed that faculty were somewhat aware of OER and very interested in learning more.

After the results of the STCC Student Textbook Survey were collected and analyzed, the library applied for a Faculty Innovation Grant via the STCC Foundation and they were awarded $3,000. The money was used to award stipends to three STCC faculty who redesigned their courses to use open educational resources in place of traditional textbooks. This grant resulted in an approximate cost savings of $18,000 for STCC students.

Due to staff turnover, there was no official leader of the STCC OER initiative from August to December 2016. Throughout the Fall semester, librarian Chelsea Delnero conducted a few OER Task Force meetings as well as a limited number of OER events including a faculty workshop and an open book fair. Chelsea was hired in late November 2016 as the eResource and OER Librarian.

**FY 2017 Review**
This year was a productive one for the STCC OER Initiative, despite some minor setbacks. This section of the report will focus on our successes.
**Getting Organized**

According to open education leaders, one of the first steps to a successful OER initiative is accountability; in order for school’s to be successful in OER implementation, there should be someone responsible for leading the initiative so that faculty, staff, and administration have a liaison to whom they can turn for updates on the initiative's progress. This year, STCC hired a full-time librarian who is responsible for leading the campus OER initiative.

Additionally, the responsibilities of all stakeholders must be outlined and project goals should be clearly stated. In order to illustrate and share this information, the STCC OER Task Force created two documents: the [STCC Open Educational Resources Strategic Framework](#) and [OER Project Goals](#). These documents were shared with administration as well as with the grants office in order to assist in finding grant opportunities for the initiative.

**Current OER Courses**

There are seven courses that offer OER sections at STCC with a total cost savings of nearly $79,000. The chart below provides details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Textbook Cost</th>
<th>Students/Semester</th>
<th>Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christine Atwater</td>
<td>MGT 101</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Cusick./Renee Tetreault</td>
<td>OIT 110</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinnie Grasetti</td>
<td>COL 101</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Poe</td>
<td>BIO 231</td>
<td>$378</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>$24,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Simao</td>
<td>MAT 100</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Su Thavanthri</td>
<td>PHY 221</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$3,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanon Trueman</td>
<td>BIO 141</td>
<td>$107</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>$12,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SAVINGS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$78,792</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While this is certainly a success, there is much work to be done. The current OER student impact at STCC is <1%. Our goal is to increase our impact by 3% in the next 1-3 years.

**Events & Projects**

This year, the focus was on outreach and advocacy for OER. There were 3 events held specifically for faculty: one OER Tech Talk in the library, and two OER book fairs held in Schibelli Hall. Additionally, the OER librarian advocated for OER at other campus events like the all-college town hall meeting that focused on college costs and PHENOM meetings.
The OER librarian also participated in several professional development opportunities focused on OER. Perhaps the most impactful were the OpenEd Conference in Richmond, VA and the Northeast OER Summit at UMass Amherst. Both events brought together OER leaders from across the country to discuss advocacy, implementation, and curating and creating OER materials.

**Looking Forward**
In addition to the project goals outlined in the [Open Educational Resources Project Goals](#) document, the OER Task Force hopes to continue our efforts to promote the use of OER on campus in the following ways:

- Advocate for OER at the student services fair, the opening picnic, PHENOM meetings and other student-centered events. Student involvement is essential to this initiative.
- Bring local OER leaders to STCC for faculty-focused events and workshops.
- Identify sources of funding for OER projects as well as non-monetary incentives for faculty adoption (i.e. reassigned time).
- Conduct department-wide OER events to encourage the use of OER in courses across curricula.
- Continue to provide up-to-date information about the OER movement as well as a small repository of available open resources.

**Needed Support**
The OER Librarian has put together an outline of OER funding needs. A small budget will allow for greater outreach and educational opportunities. Examples of uses of that funding are:

- Providing refreshments at OER events and meetings to encourage participation.
- Inviting experts to campus to speak to the STCC community about OER.
- Travel funds for task force members to attend OER professional development events.

**Conclusion**
The OER Task Force and OER Librarian will continue their ongoing support of faculty who currently use OER in their courses as well as offering education and support for faculty who are new to open education ideas and concepts. With continued commitment to the OER initiative, STCC will be able to positively impact the experience of our students.