Open Education Across the Nation: The Regional Education Compacts
What is a regional education compact?
National Consortium for Open Educational Resources (NCOER)

Mission
NCOER works to increase access and equity in education by collaborating to scale the awareness and adoption of Open Education, including Open Educational Resources and its associated practices and pedagogies to a national level.

Vision
NCOER is a national platform to educate and assist Open Education leaders in policy, research, advocacy, and professional development that supports open education across the nation.
# Open Ed in the Northeast: Capacity Building

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Connecticut

Overview

- **Initial state investment:** $75,000 specified for OER grants
- Public Act Number 19-117 established the Connecticut OER Coordinating Council under the Office of Higher Education.
- The 17-member council was convened for the first time in mid-September 2019 with an agenda to identify high-impact courses and facilitate a competitive grant program for higher education faculty in the state to develop, convert or adopt OER.
- Connecticut is a #GoOpen State

Newsworthy!

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) #NoLo (No and Low cost > $40) Campaign easily allows students to identify which courses offer low or no-cost course materials. CSCU is also a member of the DOERS3.
Massachusetts

Overview

- $7.6+ million in Student Textbook Savings in FY22
- OER Working Group comprised of faculty, librarians, administrators; external membership (e.g., campus bookstore, union leadership, employer representative)
  ○ Tasked with studying, evaluating and identifying ways that the MA Department of Higher Education can address public higher education “Big Three” goals of increasing access and affordability, closing achievement gaps, and increasing completion rates through broader utilization of OER, among others.
  ○ In October 2019 the OER Working Group OER Report & Recommendations and endorsed implementation of its recommendations was submitted and accepted.

Newsworthy!

Six public universities and community colleges in Massachusetts were awarded a federal grant (Open Textbook Pilot) to remix or develop accessible, intentionally inclusive open textbooks and other OER that reflect students’ local and lived experiences. ROTEL (Remixing open textbooks through an equity lens)
Massachusetts

AY 2018-2019
Statewide OER Consortium Project funded by PIF
Baseline survey and statewide faculty professional development Established OER Working Group

MA Go Open Project (TAACCCT)
Creation of the MA Community College OER Hub
SAC creates Resolution in support of OER

Open Education Initiative at UMass Amherst


OER Working Group's Final Report and Recommendations brought to and adopted by the BHE on October 22, 2019
OER Advisory Council recommended OER Course Marking Implementation Guidelines were accepted and adopted by the BHE.
OER Advisory Council recommended OER Key Performance Indicators Implementation Guidelines were accepted and adopted by the BHE.

First OER Key Performance Indicators statewide data were reported by the DHE to legislators (March 2023) and the BHE (April 2023) including $7.6 million in student savings from OER use in FY22.
Rhode Island

Overview

- **RI Open Textbook Initiative** (2016 - present) was a challenge set by (then) Governor Gina Raimondo to the state’s higher ed institutions to save students **$5 million over five years** using openly licensed textbooks.

- **Investment**: Funding for OEN membership and micro-grants were available to the public institutions through the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner and the Office of Innovation (now dissolved).

- The pandemic interrupted the data collection and assessment of the savings and impact on students in Rhode Island.

Lessons learned

- Public vs. Private support
- Statewide committee work but compensation or recognition of some kind is necessary
- Administration changes impacted priorities
- COVID
Barriers to Capacity Building
What is NEBHE doing?

Bridging the gap between public and private institutions

Over 60% of the institutions in New England are private, and NEBHE is working to bridge the gap between the engagement and support of these institutions.
What is NEBHE doing?

Practitioner Support

Developing resources and hosting webinars and workshops to support practitioners in the Northeast.
What is NEBHE doing?

**Policy Development**

Resources and information to inform sound policy making practices for OER state legislation as well as system and institutional policies, bridging the gap between practitioners and key decision-makers.
What is NEBHE doing?

Leadership awareness & engagement

Communication strategies and tools to assist constituents in understanding and articulating the full value and commitment that Open Education entails in terms of advancing affordability, equity, and pedagogy in the Northeast.
Southern Regional Education Board

State Action Teams
Developing State Action Teams are our strategy to assist Open Education leaders in policy, research, advocacy, and professional development that supports open education across the nation.

Oklahoma

Arkansas

- Spectrum of Funding
- Varies by State
- Focus on Professor / Teacher Development and Access
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

• Individualized to each state

• Recognize the political environment of each state

• Utilize the current infrastructure

• Understand the capacity for each state and their desired goals
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