Open Educational Resources for Instruction
Open, Affordable, Effective

Morning refreshments 9:30 AM
Welcome 10:00 AM

- Dr. Missy Alexander, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Western Connecticut State University

Speakers 10:10 AM

- Dr. Edward J. Neth, Lecturer, Chemistry, University of Connecticut - Stamford
- Dr. Stacey Williams, Associate Professor, Business, Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Panel 11:00 AM

- Dr. David Burns, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Western Connecticut State University
- Dr. Charles Rocca, Professor of Mathematics, Western Connecticut State University
- Dr. Edwin Wong, Associate Professor, Molecular Biology, Western Connecticut State University
- Autumn Aaronsohn, Psychology major, Western Connecticut State University
- Steven Rollo, Computer Science major, Western Connecticut State University
- Andrew Figueroa, Computer Science major, Western Connecticut State University

Closing Remarks 12:15 PM

Invited Speakers

Dr. Edward J. Neth earned his BS in Chemistry (minor in Politics) at Fairfield University in 1985 and his MS (1988) and PhD (1995; Inorganic/Materials Chemistry) at the University of Connecticut. He joined the University of Connecticut in 2004 as a lecturer and currently teaches general and inorganic chemistry. His background includes having worked as a network engineer in both corporate and university settings, and he has served as Director of Academic Computing at New Haven University. He currently teaches a three-semester, introductory chemistry sequence at UConn and is involved with training and coordinating teaching assistants.

Dr. Stacey Williams is a proud graduate of the Connecticut Community College and State University systems. She owned and operated a small business startup in south central Connecticut, and has been part of the higher education landscape in Connecticut for twenty-five years having served as an Instructional Designer for Yale University in the department of Academic Media and Technology, and Director of Distance Learning at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Currently she is an Associate Professor of Business at Northwestern Connecticut Community College.
A strategy for getting started ...


1. Decide whether you want to look for open content used by others in your discipline? Use an existing open textbook? Or create your own materials?

2. Contact your subject librarian for assistance with finding open content that meets the SRs. Don't forget, subscription material is "free" to your instructors and students.

3. Find content that supports your pedagogy & student learning outcomes. Work with an Instructional Designer if needed, to align them.

4. Identify a rubric to use when reviewing quality (e.g., http://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/ReviewRubric.aspx).

5. Edit materials, as needed. Seek technical help when there are obstacles.

6. Address student accessibility at the outset. Your institution’s Accessibility office will assist, if needed.

7. Deliver your content via any LMS platform (WCSU uses Blackboard) or website.

8. Create open content assessment forms for your students to complete at the conclusion of a course.

9. Build in time to update or tweak content annually.

10. SHARE!! Use the OER Commons (https://www.oercommons.org/) and your institutional repository (WestCollections: https://repository.wcsu.edu/) to preserve your content and make it available to others.