CSCU OER Mini-Grant Program - Application Guidelines

CSCU is seeking applications for its OER Mini-Grant program to strategically support CSCU institutions’ efforts to adopt open educational resources (OER) as a means to greatly reduce textbook costs and address college affordability for students.

Building on the prior success of CSCU OER initiatives and the first round of mini-grants, this program will target OER adoption in “high impact,” high enrollment courses for which high-quality OER already exists.

This mini-grant opportunity is available to all CSCU institutions and will focus on OER adoptions for Biology (Concepts, Introduction, or General 1), Chemistry (Concepts or General 1), and Math (Elementary or Intermediate Algebra). [Substitutions will be considered with proper justification on how the proposed OER adoption will positively impact high enrollment/high cost courses with traditionally low student success rates.]

A single grant of $1,000 will be awarded per selected campus/department upon completion.

Additional information regarding deadlines and timelines, eligibility criteria, participation requirements, completion definition, and how to apply for the mini-grant is provided below.

I. Eligibility

To be eligible for the OER mini-grant program, applicants must:

- Replace traditional textbooks with OER as a means to reduce students’ costs and make education more affordable within the areas of Biology (Concepts, Introduction, or General 1), Chemistry (Concepts or General 1), and Math (Elementary or Intermediate Algebra).
- Keep the total textbook costs at $40 or under (with lower costs preferred).
- Ensure selected materials are openly licensed.
- Ensure selected materials meet accessibility standards.
- Submit a letter of support from the department chair and another letter of support from either the academic dean, provost, or president.

II. Participant Requirements

If selected, OER mini-grant awardees will commit to the following:

- Participate in a one-hour pre-workshop webinar to review Mini-Grant requirements.
- Participate in a half-day face-to-face OER Adoption workshop designed to address common OER adoption questions and best practices.
- Successfully implement proposed OER adoption and meet accessibility and open licensing requirements within the Spring 2019 semester.
- Complete a faculty survey and assist in administering a student survey within the Spring 2019 semester.
• Complete the OER mini-grant report template by June 1, 2019, which includes the following for each course section:
  • *Course Title, Number, Section, CRN/TERM CODE*
  • *Legacy Textbook Replaced & Associated Cost*
  • *OER Textbook & Associated Cost*
  • *Projected Cost Savings/Avoidance for Students*
  • *Assessment of Student Outcomes*
    • Percentage of Students Receiving C or Better
  • *Beginning & Ending Enrollment, Drops, Withdrawals*
  • *Faculty & Student Survey Results*
• Share outcomes of OER adoption to be placed on the OpenCSCU website.
  • *Information may include dollars saved, completion rate, GPA, survey results*
• Be listed on the OpenCSCU website as an OER Champion and available for colleagues interested in adopting OER in your discipline.

### III. Submission Requirements

Applications must include the following information:

• Institution, Department, Course Title, Number & Section Numbers to adapted
• Contact information
• Stated Commitment to the grant eligibility and participation requirements
• Letter of commitment from department chair and either the academic dean, provost or president, stating:
  • commitment to replace current commercial course materials with OER within faculty courses
  • commitment to participate in OER dissemination requirements as stated above

**Only one grant award per campus will be issued.**

**Selection and Implementation Timing:**

• Faculty applications along with letters of support from the department chair and either the campus academic dean, provost, or president are due electronically by **Friday November 16th, 2018** to kcorcoran@commnet.edu.
• Selected campuses will be notified by **November 21st, 2018**.
• Awardees will be notified by **November 26th, 2018** of scheduled training dates.
• All OER adoption reports are due by **June 1st, 2019**.
• Grant payments will be issued to the department and will only be issued upon report completion.

Please contact Kevin Corcoran at kcorcoran@commnet.edu or 860-723-0159 with any questions.