Higher Education in a Post-COVID World

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
Leveraging OER for Student Centered Flexibility

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The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us we must be ready to pivot to different learning modalities that meet our students’ needs when we cannot teach on campus. The **Flexible Teaching for Student Success Initiative** will prepare Boise State University to deliver classes online, in person, and in various combinations thereof during fall 2020. We want to assure our faculty...
Achieving Flexible through Open Educational Resources
What are OER?
Open educational resources (OER) are free, openly-licensed materials that permit use, revision, and redistribution. While the benefits of OER are available to all learners and educators, OER draws on the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. As such, it is developed for the empowerment and with the participation of marginalized learners who may be underrepresented in educational contexts.

- Boise State Definition of OER
What does OER look like?
What do students value in their course materials?
Values that should be reflected in course materials

1. Affordability and Access
2. Inclusivity and Accessibility
OER is best the way to maximize student values
Value 1: Affordability and Access
College Textbook Prices Have Risen 1,041 Percent Since 1977

by BEN POPKEN
In your academic career, has the cost of required textbooks caused you to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>Not purchase the required textbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>Take fewer courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>Not register for a specific course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>Earn a poor grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>Drop a course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>Fail a course</td>
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OER provides day 1 & perpetual access
Value 2: Inclusivity and Accessibility
The Last Girl is a concept and strategic framework that operates with historically marginalized members of our community centered at decision making processes. The rationale is that the liberation of oppressed identities ultimately works toward true inclusion.

Every action of the council must not jeopardize, out, or cause harm to the most marginalized of our communities.

https://www.boisestate.edu/asbsu/envision-2018/
How can OER facilitate inclusion?

- Flexibility in the curriculum to bring in representational images, authors, and examples
- Allows us to center historically marginalized voices in the co-creation of new forms of knowledge
How can OER facilitate accessibility?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COALITION</th>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
<th>INCENTIVES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Creation of Boise State OER Group -- Faculty and Staff representing various units from across campus</td>
<td>● Hired a full-time OER Coordinator to help with the integration of OER into online courses</td>
<td>● 25K pledged from the State Board to support the development of OER</td>
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<td></td>
<td>● Joined Open Textbook Network</td>
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<td>● Purchased Pressbooks</td>
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Reaping the Rewards

- Adoption of Chemistry OER Text in high-enrollment sections
- Sharing of OER materials across First Year Writing Program
- Greater organic awareness of OER with a desire to adopt in the future
Key Takeaways

- OER maximize flexibility with learning materials
- OER allow us to address student values meaningfully in a way that is not otherwise possible
- Key investments are needed to get OER initiatives off the ground
Questions?
Tell us your feedback
Brainstorm Ideas