TeachTech Research Cohort
Affordable/OER Course Materials Initiative
2019-2020

Project Facilitators:

Angela Lucero: Scholarly Communication Librarian
Steven T. Varela; Associate Director
TeachTech Research Cohort: Affordable/OER Course Materials Initiative

Since the signing of Texas’ Senate Bill 810 in 2017, the pressure has been on statewide organizations to hasten the development and support of Open Educational Resources (OER) in colleges and universities. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s 60x30 Texas Initiative, for example, has established an Open Educational Resources Grant Program to encourage faculty to turn to OER. This could mean as little as replacing a course’s textbook with an OER option to as much as designing degree pathways which use only OER course material (a practice which Achieving the Dream’s OER Degree Initiative has demonstrated leads to improved student outcomes, including success and degree completion).

The UTEP Library and Technology Support Services seek faculty at all levels (tenured, tenure-track, and adjunct) to work with Creative Studios and UTEP Librarians to identify, discover/curate, create, support and evaluate OER or other affordable instructional materials to be used in a variety of UTEP courses. Up to 12 faculty will be selected to transform their courses by replacing commercial instructional resources, including textbooks, with OER or affordable instructional materials—either curated or created—to maximize student learning outcomes while reducing or eliminating the cost of these materials for students.

To incentivize faculty to transform their courses and teaching strategies, and for the time and support required, we will provide up to $3,000 in available funds for technology and/or conference travel purchases for faculty to further enhance their teaching, learning, and research.

Goals of TeachTech OER Initiative:

• Making course materials more affordable for students;
• Ensuring students have access to course materials on the first day of class;
• Increasing student engagement with course materials;
• Supporting open pedagogy (e.g., faculty collaboration, peer review, resource sharing, iterative curriculum improvement);
• Decreasing reliance on commercial publishers;
• Providing materials that can be localized to meet learners’ needs;
• Providing materials that can better help to meet accessibility requirements at the institution;
• Providing materials that can be tracked and analyzed for effectiveness in achieving content and mastery knowledge in a course.

Application Process:

Participants must submit their application via an online form: https://teachtech.questionpro.com/

A committee consisting of representatives from UTEP faculty, UTEP Librarians, and Creative Studios/Technology Support staff will review the proposals.

Selection Criteria/Rubric will be based on (see attachment for full rubric):

• Potential cost savings to students and institution;
• Transformation of course through affordable or OER materials/clarity of goals;
• Feasibility (availability of affordable or OER materials and/or sustainability);
• Clarity of plan for evaluating student success and data collection.

Additional Selection Criteria:

• Availability of instructor to participate in the entire project (Fall 2019 – Fall 2020) and to commit to share findings of his/her experience throughout the TeachTech Research Cohort participation period;
• Representation across schools and colleges;
• Demonstrated support from Department Chair and Dean.

We are looking for projects that utilize or create the most open materials, incorporate OER transformatively, that have the greatest impact, and may foster collaboration and interdisciplinary connections (going beyond textbook or adaptive courseware adoption).

Library/Instructional Technology Support:

A team consisting of select librarians from the UTEP Library and Creative Studios staff in Technology Support Services will facilitate the planning, implementation, and assessment of courses created by the faculty participating in the TeachTech OER Initiative.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Roles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela Lucero and Steve Varela</td>
<td>TeachTech facilitators/leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creative Studios</td>
<td>Multimedia and digital interaction development, graphics, icons, cinemagraphs, student engagement design and artifacts, and customization for course content and course shell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Lucero and UTEP Librarians</td>
<td>Discovery and curation of academic materials/articles, creating Research, advise on/facilitate deployment of course materials to students, adding newly created or modified OER to UTEP’s institutional repository, profile + promote participant’s work in “Textbook Hero” series.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bb Central</td>
<td>OER LTIs, adaptive courseware integration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Lucero, Steve Varela, and Jessica Duran</td>
<td>Copyright, Creative Commons Licenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yi-Yu Liao</td>
<td>External evaluation of:</td>
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<td>• TeachTech initiative (through implementation of classes),</td>
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<td>• the faculty (their satisfaction, challenges, etc.),</td>
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<td>• instruments for student success.</td>
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Deliverables:

Selected TeachTech participants agree to the following:

- Transform a F2F or Hybrid class.
- Costs to students for materials in the participants’ courses must be $0 (or substantially reduced).
- Attend “check-in/lunch and learn” meetings as established by TeachTech facilitators.
- Give permission for the UTEP Library to deposit educational resources resulting from TeachTech into Digital Commons, UTEP’s institutional repository.
- Educational resources resulting from TeachTech must be licensed under an open license, such as the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license. Resources may not be licensed with a Creative Commons No Derivatives clause.
- Share data that assists in measuring the impact of the project.
- Assist with data collection in courses where open education project is implemented.
- Present and submit a final project report evaluating the challenges and accomplishments of the project and its impact on student performance.
- Share results on campus through workshops and presentations hosted by Technology Support Services, UTEP Library, and/or Center for Faculty Leadership and Development

Assessment:

Upon completion of courses, collected data will be analyzed to describe impact to:

- Cost savings realized by students enrolled in the course that adopted affordable or OER resources;
- Student learning outcomes for the OER courses being comparable to or better than previous outcomes (grades, retention);
- Faculty success in identifying and incorporating affordable and/or OER materials;
- Faculty satisfaction with the support and services offered through the Affordability pilot (through survey and focus group);
- Student satisfaction with the affordable and/or OER course/modules materials (survey, course evaluation and focus group).

Learn more about instructional material affordability and OER: http://libguides.utep.edu/oer

Find OER materials using the tools: http://libguides.utep.edu/oer/find
High Level Timeline

Pre-Launch Dates

Aug. 20, 2019: Campus Bulletin sent

Aug. 20, 2019: Announced at New Faculty Orientation

Aug. 21, 2019: Announced at Fall Faculty Retreat

Aug. 23, 2019: Informational Session in UGLC 320

Aug. 30, 2019: Campus Bulletin reminder sent

Sept. 2019: University Communications and Prospector articles

Fall 2019 Dates—Research, Planning and Discovery

This semester will be focused on empowering participants to be able to find and access OER/Affordable materials with their instructional librarians, as well as plan and design their Bb course shell for teaching, learning and research. Learning Outcomes for program uploaded into Blackboard. IRB will also be involved to help participants strategize and plan research for publication.

Oct. 4, 2019: Launch Meeting (explain parameters of research cohort in detail, have participants sign document agreeing to terms of TeachTech, determine appropriate consultants).

Oct. 25, 2019: Check-In #1 (Choosing Affordable Resources/What is OER?)

Nov. 22, 2019: Check-In #2 (Designing Bb course for teaching, learning and research)

Dec. 13, 2019: Check In #3 (Assessment and Data Collection Strategies/IRB presentation)

Deliverables: Full Syllabus and Course Calendar (due Dec. 16th)

*Funds available ($1000) by Dec. 16, 2019

Spring 2020 Dates—Create, Build and Test

This semester will be focused on the building of the course shells themselves, integrating OER/Affordable content curated by instructional librarians, and enhanced content developed by Creative Studios. Assessment instruments will be developed and course usability will be tested as well.

Jan. 6-10, 2020: Blackboard Institute (participants will be encouraged to enroll)

Jan. 31, 2020: Check In #1 (Textbooks, Scholarly Articles, Library Resources)
Feb. 21, 2020: Check-In #2 (Multimedia, Dynamic Mini-Lectures, Interactive Assessment)

Mar. 27, 2020: Check-In #3 (Assessments for data collection confirmed and built).

Apr. 17, 2020: Check-In #4 (Usability testing of design framework implemented)

Deliverables: Modules 1-6

*Funds Available ($1000) by May 1, 2020

Summer 2020 Dates: Finalizing Modules and Preparing to Launch

This semester will complete all remaining course content and assessment instruments.

May 27-June 2, 2020: Blackboard Institute (participants will be encouraged to enroll)

July 10, 2020: Check-In #1 (Modules 7-12 should be built)

Aug. 7, 2020: Check-In #2 (Finalize and prepare for launch)

Deliverables: Complete course, assessment instruments finalized

*Funds Available ($1000) by Sept. 1, 2020

Fall 2020: Launch of course and data collection