**FACET Open Educational Resources Initiative Grants**

**Request for Proposals**

**2023**

**All proposals must be submitted to** [FACET@towson.edu](mailto:FACET@towson.edu) **by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 6, 2023**

**Open Educational Resources (OER)**

Have you ever considered using OERs? Open Educational Resources (OER) are materials that are written for the purpose of being shared publicly with no compensation for the creator. OER use in higher education is very popular and growing, and it affords the following benefits:

* OER provides free course materials to students
* OER often enhances teaching and learning.
* OER use improves accessibility and adaptability of course materials
* OER can increase cultural responsiveness and cultural relevance in one’s teaching and learning

In spring 2020, Towson University won an institutional grant from the Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) initiative at USM’s William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation to support OER expansion. Part of this initiative is to offer mini-grants to TU faculty to consider and/or use OER in their courses *This request for proposals describes two types of small grants—exploratory and adopt/adapt--that are offered by FACET, in cooperation with M.O.S.T.*

TU faculty who win one of these small grants will be supported with funds as well as excellent guidance and mentoring by the TU OER Community of Practice (CoP) and other faculty in discovering and reviewing high-quality OER. Faculty may have an opportunity to present the results of their efforts at USM events as well as national meetings dedicated to the use of OER.

**Adopt/Adapt grants**

Up to twelve grants will be funded at **$1500 each**. Adopt/adapt grants will require a commitment to integrate, at least partially, OER into one or more courses in Fall 2023. All faculty are encouraged to apply, and the expectation is that these faculty have a commitment from their Department Chairs to permit use of OER. Priority will be given to faculty who teach one or more high-enrollment courses.

**Exploratory grants**

Up to six grants will be funded at **$500 each**. Exploratory grants will support faculty in finding OER relevant to their disciplines and determining whether the OER will be a good fit for their classes. The OER initiative team will release a follow-up RFP for $1000 adopt/adapt grants in Fall 2023 for exploratory grantees who wish to commit to adopting OER for their courses in Spring 2024.

**Benefits of funding and engagement in OER Initiative**

As stated above, the funding provided is only one benefit of the successful applicant’s engagement in the OER Initiative. In addition to the funds, the faculty member will be given the following support by current members of the OER CoP:

* Workshops concentrating on identification and integration of OER;
* Workshops focused on new pedagogy and instructional design with OER.
* One-on-one support for your construction of your course, using newly-identified OER
* Support for inclusion of culturally relevant content that reflects the rich diversity spanning our student body.
* Support for piloting of your OER-based course
* Pre- and post-OER adoption classroom observations to explore pedagogy implementation and conduct review of culturally relevant content added through OER.
* Designation in the course enrollment system on your OER-supported class, indicating to students that the course contains no-cost course materials.
* Access to and training on the TU Hub on the M.O.S.T. Commons OER repository, which permits TU faculty to curate Open-Source material in an area that can be shared easily with others at the institution.
* Opportunity to present at USM conferences dedicated to OER.

**Grantee Responsibilities**

In addition to the adopt/adapt or exploratory activities, grantees will be encouraged to:

* Join FACET’s OER Community of Practice (OER CoP) to engage with faculty in discussing and promoting OER usage
* Engage with OER CoP in enhancement of courses
* Participate in rigorous mixed-method assessment to provide evidence of changes in OER usage as well as impacts of OER on student success, student engagement, faculty reflective practice, and other outcome variables over the course of the coming academic year
* Submit white papers summarizing findings to be posted on the M.O.S.T. OER Commons TU Hub, curated by University Librarians.
* Openly license and share adapted OER content, with the help of the OER CoP, via the M.O.S.T. OER Commons.

**Application**

1. **Grant lead person’s name, title, department, and email address**
2. **Additional project team members’ information (as above)**
3. **For which type of grant are you applying?**
   1. **Adopt/adapt grant**
   2. **Exploratory grant**
4. **Course information, including course number and name, course description, number of sections per year, estimated total number of students per year, title and cost of current course materials, your role in decision making about course materials.**
5. Project narrative describing your plan for development and implementation of your project (500 words maximum)
6. **Letter of approval from Department Chair (attached to your email)**

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