

ALPA NEWSLETTER

April 2021



Introducing: OER Interest Group on Slack

Are you trying to connect with other OER enthusiasts? Did you try to locate an OER workspace on Slack and couldn't locate it? You aren't alone. Good news! One of our ALPA Campus Partners, Ethan Pullman from Carnegie Mellon, has created a new OER Interest Group workspace (OIG or OERIG) on Slack. It is a public workspace and is searchable in Slack. It contains five channels: #general, #oi-assessment-and-data, #oi-communication-outreach, #oi-education-and-training, and #oi-publishing-and-repositories.

The goal of this interest group is to create a network of like-minds who are OER enthusiasts. A brief introduction has been posted in #general as well as a question to get the conversation started. Help spread the word and join in the discussion on Slack. Thank you future OIGers!

Note: #cc-openedu is also a good workspace on Slack for discussing open education policy but doesn't cover topics like assessment, communication, marketing, etc.

PA Grants for Open and Affordable Learning (PA GOAL)

The deadline to apply for Cycle 1 funding from the PA GOAL program is May 9--if you have questions, please visit the program website at www.pagoal.org.

To receive updates and breaking news about the program directly, please sign up for the program's mailing list: [PA GOAL Mailing List Sign-Up](#).

ALPA Events and Updates

2021 ALPA Summit

Save the Date! The 2021 Affordable Learning Summit will be held online August 17-19. More details and a call for proposals will be coming soon....

Event Recordings

This spring has been a busy one for ALPA training events and webinars--if you weren't able to join us live, recordings for many of our events are now available at <https://www.affordablelearningpa.org/get-involved/events/>.

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ALPA-News list changes coming soon

The ALPA-News list will be migrating to a new platform during May--all current subscribers should receive an invitation to the new service within the next few weeks. This will make it easier for our participants to manage their subscriptions directly, without requiring a Google account for access.

Open Education Network membership

Just a reminder that the deadline for institutions interested in pursuing an allied membership in the Open Education Network at steeply discounted rates for the July 2021-June 2022 program year is **May 15**. If your campus would like to contract directly with the OEN, please use [this short form to sign up](#). For more information about membership and its value, please visit <https://open.umn.edu/otn/join/>

Remember that this year's OEN Summer Summit will be happening online from **June 14-18, 2021**! If you are curious to know more about the event, check out the [Summit 2020 YouTube playlist](#) for recordings of last year's sessions, slides and transcripts.

National and International highlights

SPARC Open Education Leadership Program 2021-2022

Applications for the [SPARC Open Education Leadership Program](#) 2021-2022 cohort are now open! The SPARC Open Education Leadership Program is an intensive professional development program designed to empower academic professionals with the knowledge, skills, and connections to lead successful open education initiatives that benefit students. All academic professionals with open education responsibilities (including instructional designers, project coordinators, and other related roles) are encouraged to apply.

The [application form](#) must be completed by **May 28th at 11:59pm EDT**, and notifications will be delivered by June 4th. We are pleased to offer candidates from SPARC member institutions a subsidized tuition rate and tuition discounts by application.

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OER Programs from COVID Relief

Several states, including Pennsylvania, have utilized federal COVID-19 relief funding to expand OER programs. Oregon has been awarded a [\\$1.2 million grant](#) from the federal GEER fund to launch new initiatives, hire a statewide Open Education Instructional Designer, translate OER into languages other than English, design a professional development course for non-faculty, and develop openly-licensed materials with an equity lens. Texas has established an [OER Course Development and Implementation Grant Program](#), and Pennsylvania has implemented a \$500,000 [OER Grant Program](#) (more info in the PA GOAL section above).

Upcoming free, online events across the US

Check out these events hosted by other state-wide open and affordable education programs: all are open to the public, and free to register and attend virtually.

Save the date--details and registration coming soon:

- The Northeast OER Summit will be held virtually May 24 - 26, program details are available at <https://neoer.umasscreate.net/conferences/2021-2/>, and registration is now open at <https://umass.irisregistration.com/Site/OER>
- FLVC OER Summit 2021 will be held May 13-14 - **registration is now open** at <https://www.flvc.org/oersummit>

Do you have an event, program, or other information you'd like highlighted in an upcoming ALPA Newsletter? Send us your submissions via [our online form](#).