ALPA NEWSLETTER

March 2021

PA Grants for Open and Affordable Learning (PA GOAL) - Coming Soon!

If you are interested in receiving application details, updates, and breaking news about the new mini-grant program funded by the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER), please sign up for the program's mailing list: PA GOAL Mailing List Sign-Up. The new program will provide a series of mini-grants and stipends to encourage and support faculty in creating, adapting, and adopting Open Educational Resources and other zero-cost materials in institutions of postsecondary and higher education across Pennsylvania.

Join the ALPA OER Specialists for 2021-23

Are you interested in helping build a statewide academic library network in support of open educational resources? As an OER Specialist, you would receive funding for professional development and an Open Education Network allied membership for your campus, as well as the chance to work with a team of other passionate advocates over a two-year term. The formal announcement will be available later this week, and applications will be accepted from April 1 through April 25. Please save the date to join the current cohort for a Q&A session on either Friday, April 9 or Monday, April 19.

2021 Creative Commons cohort

Save the Dates! ALPA will again be fully subsidizing the costs for a Creative Commons Certificate cohort, to be offered June 7 to August 15, 2021. This highly rewarding asynchronous, but lively, course equips participants with the knowledge and skills to enable them to confidently create, adopt and advise their community on CC licensing, the Commons and open practices. Applications to join the ALPA cohort will be open April 12-25, 2021.

ALPA Event Recordings

Thanks to everyone that attended the recent ALPA webinars on OER Publishing:

- So you want to publish an OER: A Conversation about the Basics
  - Recording is now available, Access Passcode: 2V&8S0Fq
- An Introduction to Pressbooks and its Applications for OER
  - Recording is now available, Access Passcode: zb1EWn5+
- A third session focusing on LibreTexts will be offered in April--more details and registration information will be coming soon!

Open Education Network membership

Did you know that ALPA has a consortial membership in the Open Education Network (OEN), which allows all eligible schools in Pennsylvania partial access to OEN tools and services, as well as steeply discounted pricing to join at the campus level? Allied institutions are part of an existing OEN member system or consortia (like ALPA). These institutions can join the OEN and enjoy the same benefits as OEN institutional members for a fraction of the cost: $525 (normally $1575). If you're interested in pursuing allied membership in the July 2021-June 2022 program year, please use [this short form to sign up](#) through **May 15**. For more information about membership and its value, please visit https://open.umn.edu/otn/join/

A reminder to mark your calendars for this year's OEN Summer Summit, happening from **June 14-18, 2021**! Call for proposals is now open, you may [submit proposals via this form](#) by **Sunday, April 11.** The Summit is an opportunity to connect with the open education community, showcase your efforts, exchange expertise, and explore challenges in a supportive, collaborative environment. It will once again be free of charge, and open to OEN members and nonmembers alike. Special members-only events led by the Summit Planning Committee will be a place for us to share, ideate, and have a little fun while doing so!

National and International Highlights

2021-2022 Institute on Open Educational Resources

AAC&U, with expertise and leadership from OpenStax and ISKME, is launching a new Institute on Open Educational Resources (OER). The Institute on OER will provide a year-long, online engagement opportunity for cross-departmental teams from campuses that want to create and implement a strategy to broaden campus engagement with and adoption of OER. This new model directly engages the OER Institute teams for a full year via virtual events and interactions as participants' OER implementation and acceleration plans are put into practice. For more details and to apply, please visit https://www.aacu.org/events/2021-2022-institute-open-educational-resources. Applications must be received by April 30, 2021. Notification of selection decisions will be sent by May 12, 2021, and the program will begin with a two-day online event July 26-27, 2021.

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U.S. PIRG Student Survey

In late February, U.S. PIRG released the results from their latest student survey highlighting results from more than 5,000 students at 82 colleges and universities. The survey, titled "Fixing the Broken Textbook Market, Third Edition," asked students about their textbook buying experiences during the pandemic. The results indicated that 65% of students skipped buying textbooks due to high cost, and 21% of students skipped purchasing access codes. View the entire survey findings here:

https://uspirg.org/reports/usp/fixing-broken-textbook-market-third-edition

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, and registration and the call for proposals opens March 1: https://neoer.umasscreate.net/conferences/2021-2/
- FLVC OER Summit 2021 will be held May 13-14 - more details coming soon at https://www.flvc.org/oersummit

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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.