

MSCF Minute



An electronic publication of the Minnesota State College Faculty

Open Educational Resources

by guest columnist Kayley Schoonmaker, Policy Coordinator for LeadMN

There is a movement sweeping the country to help save students money. Textbooks are a huge part of the cost of attending college, with the average two-year college student spending just under \$1,400 a year for books and supplies, according to the College Board.

Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit focused on improving student success in college, launched an Open Educational Resources (OER) Degree Initiative in which 38 community colleges across the nation are creating full degree programs that use solely OER.¹ This initiative began in 2016, and will be in full swing by fall of 2018. There will be at least 53 various degrees offered, and ATD estimates that students are already saving around \$134 per course.

There has been movement started here in Minnesota as well. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system received a grant from the state legislature to begin to implement OER. The program began in 2015, and preliminary reports are showing annual student savings of over \$220,000 in total. Here are four ways that you can get involved around this movement:

Pledge to Move to OER

LeadMN, college students connecting for change, is running a grassroots campaign to bring more awareness to OER. By [signing this pledge](#), you express your commitment to saving students money on textbooks.

Attend an OER Webinar

Minnesota State offers many resources to help navigate the switch to OER. This year, the system is offering informational webinars and discussions for all faculty to participate in. The next webinar is October 18th, from 1-2:30pm. For more details, please see the [full schedule and description](#).

Review an Open Textbook and Receive an Honorarium

As part of the grant that Minnesota State received from the legislature, faculty can be awarded a \$200 honorarium for [peer-reviewing an open textbook](#). (Faculty must participate in a webinar to be eligible to receive the honorarium.)

Get Involved in your Campus OER Committee

Find out if your campus has an OER committee. We've heard that some do, such as Central Lakes College, Alexandria Technical

College, Saint Paul College, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and Lake Superior College. If your campus doesn't have one, we encourage you to partner with students in [urging administration to form one](#). You could also join on [OER Google Group](#) to stay informed.

If you have any questions or thoughts on what LeadMN is doing around OER, feel free to contact Policy Coordinator Kayley Schoonmaker at: kschoonmaker@leadmn.org. We want to say thank you to Kevin and the entire MSCF team for allowing us to speak at the summer retreat, and for the partnership that continues to grow and develop between our organizations. Thank you!

¹[Read the News Story on EdSurge: 38 Community Colleges Share What It Takes to Launch an OER Degree Program](#)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND THANKS

go to the following campuses who are well on their way to 100% membership reaffirmation by Dec. 31.

- * M State-Fergus Falls - 75%
- * Anoka Tech - 67%
- * Hibbing - 65%
- * Lake Superior - 58%
- * Dakota County - 54%
- * Ridgewater - 53%
- * Northland-TRF - 51%

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Click on the above video clip to view MSCF North Hennepin faculty member Deanna Forsman talk about the value of MSCF.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jennifer Mason, Anoka Tech
Mary Nolan, Anoka Tech
Edward Uhlenkamp, Central Lakes
Adam Rambow, Century
Anna Kam, Century
Jeffrey Korpik, Century
Susan Cipra, Century
Tunji Akanbi, Century
Sunil Ramlall, Fond du Lac
Brian Anderson, Hennepin-EP
Colleen Pucely, Hibbing
Jolene Stevenson, Hibbing
Travis Hanson, Hibbing
Andria Kaplan, Lake Superior
John Wilcox, Lake Superior
Richard Steel, Lake Superior
William McMahan, Lake Superior
Patricia Monacelli, Mesabi Range
Kleber Ortiz, Minneapolis
Stacy Christensen, MN West
Lori Mountin, North Hennepin
Dawn Gallardo, Northland-EGF
Carr Smeby, Northland-TRF
Jeffery Krein, Northland-TRF
Melissa Wolff, Riverland
Nick Schiltz, Riverland
Kelly Klun, Vermilion
Reed Petersen, Vermilion