The OER Equity Blueprint - Work from the Driving OER Sustainability for Student Success Collaborative

Rebecca Karoff, University of Texas System
Clarenda Phillips, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Open Texas Conference
March 12, 2021
Session Outcomes

- Deeper engagement with the equity dimensions of OER
- Introductory application of the *Equity Through OER* Rubric to participants’ institutions and contexts
First, who is with us?
Overview of DOERS³

1. Launched Fall 2018
2. Spearheaded by University System of Maryland, State University of New York, and City University of New York
3. Collaborative of public higher ed systems, statewide and province-wide OER efforts formed to address their concerns
4. Focused on sustaining OER efforts to achieve equity and student success at scale
5. Coordinating and collaborating with other nation-wide efforts (such as the compacts, RLOE/CCCOER, SPARC, Hewlett, and NASH)
DOERS3 Participants

We represent

25 Systems/Initiatives

688 Colleges and Universities

Over 6 million students

Background map image from Bing and © HERE Geonames. Enrollment figure is an estimate that is being refined/updated.
Research Work Group
- Landscape analysis - “OER 101”
- Data Standards for OER/OE research

Capacity Building Work Group
- Tenure/promotion policy and guidance
- Campus Store practices for listing/fulfillment

Equity Work Group
- Blueprint on the role of OER in closing equity gaps
The Time Is Now...
OER Equity Blueprint

The overarching goal of the DOERS OER Equity Blueprint is to define, unpack, and explain the multiple dimensions of equity and foreground the role of OER in closing equity gaps.

Key Components

- Theoretical and Research Foundation
- Equity Through OER Rubric
- Case Studies
Blueprint Foundation

- What is the OER Equity Blueprint?
- Theoretical Foundation: Vision, Values and Definitions
- Research Foundation
Blueprint Case Studies

Stories of OER work that advance equity, including projects, research and analysis that have been completed or underway

- Affordable Learning Georgia and Accessibility
- BC Campus and Accessibility
- The Ohio State University’s Racial Justice Grant Program to increase diverse voices in course materials
- Others to be added moving forward
Discussion and Questions

- How are you engaging equity in your OER work from your role/sphere of influence?

- In what ways would you like to engage equity in your OER work that you currently are not?

- Challenges? Opportunities?
Equity Through OER Rubric

The Application: How to integrate equity and equity-mindedness into OER and mobilize OER to close equity gaps

- What, why, who, how
- Scale of Adoption
- Rubric Dimensions
- A closer look at how to engage with the rubric
Equity Through OER Rubric

● **What**: a comprehensive self-assessment tool to guide students, faculty, administrators and academic practitioners and leaders to better understand and act on the equity dimensions of OER.

● **Why**: amplification of OER origins in equity and social justice and recognition that equity does not happen without intentionality of purpose and action.

● **Who**: college, university and university system educators and students from all spheres of influence, as well as practitioners and policy-makers from a broad spectrum of adjacent organizations and associations.

● **How**: multiple ways to engage, with a focus on evaluating progress and acting on those areas identified as requiring additional focus and effort.
Equity Through OER Rubric: Scale of Adoption

Scale of Adoption

- **Not Present**: no activity or attention paid to OER category.
- **Beginning**: activity and/or attention are beginning in isolation or *ad hoc* within units and/or institution.
- **Emerging**: more coordinated and intentional attention; activity underway in key dimensions of the OER category. A plan is being discussed and/or under development.
- **Established**: unit- and/or institution-wide foundation in place that includes a comprehensive plan for action, assessment, and continuous improvement.
## Equity Through OER Rubric: Rubric Dimensions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric Dimension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students:</strong> Availability of OER, Access to Technology, and Student Awareness of OER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practitioners:</strong> Instruction and Pedagogy, Content, and Infrastructure, including Staff Support, Course Markings, IT Support, and Bookstores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership &amp; Accountability:</strong> Decision-makers with responsibility and accountability for Ongoing Assessment and Continuous Improvement, including strategic planning and budgeting, OER-Equity goal-setting, policy, staffing, infrastructure, instructor incentives, professional development and faculty tenure and promotion recognition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sample Draft: Dimension on Student Awareness

*N.B. The rubric has not yet been finalized and is undergoing review by the DOERS3 Steering Committee and others.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Present</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3 Student Awareness of OER</strong></td>
<td>- OER may be available but students are not informed about what they are, where to find them, and how to use them.</td>
<td>- Some institutional units and departments are beginning to take responsibility for informing students about OER and how to access them.</td>
<td>- Comprehensive communication plan is developed with implementation underway in which units take responsibility for informing students, including orientation, registration, financial aid, advisement, libraries and academic departments, and bookstore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Course schedules and catalogues, and bookstore increasingly include clear OER course markings.</td>
<td>- More institutional units and departments are informing students about OER, including library, academic units, advisement and student support units, and bookstore.</td>
<td>- Communication plan includes continuous monitoring of assessment, improvement, and dissemination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Students are informed about data privacy aspects of automated textbook purchasing programs and other course material options.</td>
<td>- Published cost-of-attendance information includes language on no- and low-cost textbooks and course materials.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion and Questions

- When you think about the rubric dimensions, where has your organization focused?
- Which dimension might be most difficult to assess and make progress?
- Who would need to be at the table with you to apply meaningfully and gain traction?

*The DOERS3 OER Equity Blueprint will be published this spring through University of Texas at Arlington’s MAVs Open Press*
The Great Epiphany of the Rubric

● Quality and equity are intertwined: *doing OER with an equity lens is doing OER well—with high levels of quality, integrity and fidelity.*

● Equity is embedded in quality OER programs, just as quality is embedded in equity-minded OER programs, reinforcing the extent to which quality and equity are constituent components of one another.
Reach out with any questions to:
Rebecca Karoff, rkaroff@utsystem.edu
Clarenda Phillips, clarenda.phillips@tamucc.edu