Iowa Open Education Action Team
MIDWEST OER SUMMIT – JANUARY 2024

IOWA OER

Recent Accomplishments

Communities of Practice
In 2022, we **brought teams of instructors** together to learn about and discuss OER. This program has expanded in its second year.

OER Training Modules
In 2023, a working group developed a set of OER training modules available **on our website for easy access** and review.

Adaptable Marketing Materials
A working group recently finished a project to develop marketing materials that institutions can **edit for their OER outreach needs**.

Next Big Things

Supporting Top-Down Advocacy
As colleges are struggling with pervasive marketing from vendors pushing for auto-billing programs, we are developing **professional development** to help administrators navigate these business models.

Meeting Our Goals
We are currently exploring opportunities to **conduct more in-depth research** into the OER programs across Iowa and review pathways for **Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) degree programs** within and across our institutions.

Ways MHEC Can Help

MHEC has shown a great proficiency in OER research through their OER Course Markings and ROI (Return on Investment) projects.

This **capacity for research** could inform future directions for our team's work and help us showcase the impact of OER through **environmental scans and assessments** at both the state and regional levels.

Overview: Advancing OER Efforts through Community-Building

The Iowa Open Education Action Team prioritizes **helping our peers across the state build competencies** to support their open education programs. Many colleges are still in the first phases of their program development, and lack infrastructure, funding, or staff to grow.

Our projects focus on helping those supporting OER across Iowa find confidence in their place as local OER leaders. Over the past few years, we have coordinated:

Building Connections
A **website (iowaoer.com)**, with regular blog posts contributed by our members.

An **email listserv**, where news and discussions can be shared.

A **regular webinar series** covering topics of interest to the community.

Doing More Together
A community-curated **list of OER in use across Iowa**, shared on our website as a searchable database.

A consortial **Open Education Network (OEN) membership** for every college in Iowa, offering a discounted rate for institutions.

Offering Support
A **Request for Support Form** that local institutions can use to ask for training, advocacy, resources, or other help with their OER efforts.

Presentations given to administrators, legislators, and local coordinating groups to share information about OER.

Sharing Resources
The **Iowa OER Toolkit**, a Google Drive containing **curated resources** aligned to community members' needs, including handouts, FAQs, presentation slides, survey forms, and materials from the Open Education Network.

Assessing Needs
To ensure that our work actually supports the needs of our local communities, we regularly check in with colleges and universities across Iowa through an **annual survey**. This survey informs our 6-month action plans and the projects we develop from those goals.

Our Team

Our team consists of representatives from Iowa's community colleges (CCs), Regent universities, and private colleges, as well as representatives from the Iowa Department of Education.

Current Action Team Members

Abbey K. Elder, Iowa State University
Statewide Open Education Coordinator

Rachel Boon, Iowa Board of Regents

Jenni Breems, Dordt University

Shannon Brenner, Northeast Iowa CC

Mahrya Burnett, University of Iowa

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Anne Marie Gruber, University of Northern Iowa

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