Carolina OER Development Awards
Spring 2016 Application for 2016-2017 Course

The high cost of commercial print textbooks is a major concern for both students and their parents. With the available of reusable digital course content, known as Open Educational Resources (OERs), teachers are able to offer high quality course content at free or low cost to students. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, teachers wishing to redevelop their courses to make use of OERs can get support from the UNC Library and the Center for Faculty Excellence.   Library liaisons are available to help instructors locate quality OER materials relevant to their classes, and the Center for Faculty Excellence provides training in re-envisioning and improving your course through the use of new materials (as well as through appropriate teaching techniques).

Utilizing grant funding to develop new methods of scholarly communications, the University of North Carolina is able to provide a limited number of stipends to help fund instructors wishing to incorporate existing OERs into their course content, or to create new OER materials for their courses.

We invite you to engage in this transformation to high quality freely available course content through a competitive grant process that will award stipends of $500 to faculty teaching a course of under 50 students and $1000 to faculty teaching a course with 50 or more students, who submit successful proposals outlining efforts to adopt a new curricular resource strategy. There is a $5,000 pool of funding for this grant cycle.

Additional information on open educational resources is available at:
http://guides.lib.unc.edu/OER

Information Session
If you are interested in applying for this initiative, please attend the Open Education Initiative information session to be held on Friday January 29, 2016 in the Davis Library room 214 on the second floor from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Please RSVP by emailing **oer@unc.edu**.

The deadline for grant proposal submission is February 15, 2016. Strong preference is given to faculty who plan to deploy their alternative textbook option by the of Fall 2016. Award decisions will be made by March 15, 2016. Thank you for your interest

in this effort to provide our students with a less expensive yet educationally rewarding alternative to expensive commercial textbooks.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by representatives of the University Libraries, Center for Faculty Excellence, and selected faculty members. Grants will be awarded on the basis of:

- Strength of application in response to questions
- Potential savings to UNC students
- Sustainability and applicability of the developed course materials for future course offerings
- Implementation completed and course materials used in academic year 2016-2017.