



COOL COLLABORATIONS IN CALIFORNIA

FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

The CSU, CC and UC systems collaborated to create a free and open library of e-textbooks for more than 50 CID courses with the California Open Online Library for Education website at www.cool4ed.org.

The high cost of textbooks is a barrier for student success, and students may decide to enroll in fewer units per semester due to the expense of required books. With the support of legislation, the three higher-education systems, the CSU, CCC and UC, collaborated to create a free and open library of e-textbooks for more than 50 CID (the course identification numbering system) courses at www.cool4ed.org. More than 160 free and open e-textbooks are available to over 3 million students who take these high-enrollment courses across the three higher-education systems. The CSU-MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching) program – which has had collaborative projects with the CCC and UC during its 20 years of existence – also provides an expanded library of more than 5,900 free and open e-textbooks and about 80,000 free and open educational resources.

Positioning faculty to adopt these free and open e-textbooks has been a collaborative project as well. Led by the CSU, the three systems worked on legislation resulting in a \$3 million allocation to support faculty lowering the cost of course materials by at least 30 percent. At the completion of the legislation process, the UC decided not to participate in the program but continues to have the technology services available for their faculty and students. The CSU administered \$1.7 million of the funds to 26 CCC campuses and 19 CSU campuses, with each system receiving about \$850,000. The CSU has organized an annual conference (in 2016, 2017 and 2018) and monthly webinars to create opportunities for members of the three systems to share their strategies and successes.

MILESTONES

- Acquired \$1 million in grant funding to release \$1 million in state funding for COOL4Ed project
- Shared governance of project with Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)
- Created the California Open Educational Resources Council; three faculty from each system selected the 50 shared courses with free and open e-textbooks available for faculty and students from 2014 through 2016
- Created the California Open Online Library (www.cool4ed.org) and managed the collaboration of three systems to peer review the e-textbooks for the 50-plus courses
- Collaboratively consulted with California Open Education Resources Council to develop a request for proposal for distribution of funds for CCC and CSU faculty adopting COOL4Ed and other low-cost course materials
- Delivered a professional development program and learning community to CCC, CSU and UC faculty and staff on the discovery, adoption and use of open educational resources and low-cost course materials

QUANTIFICATION AND RESULTS

The program has expanded the availability of resources:

Acquired \$4.5 million in state funds and \$1.5 million in external funds to support the collaborative project

Created the COOL4ed resource that is being used by the CCC, CSU and UC, which has open educational resources for 52 CID courses

Expanded the COOL4Ed website to include virtual labs and a wide range of free online and hybrid course curricula in career and technical education with U.S. Department of Labor grant to the CSU

Saved nearly \$5 million in student costs for textbooks within the initial semester of the AB 798 program

COOL4Ed met all scheduled deadlines for delivering its projects and services

OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS

The COOL4Ed project provides opportunities for a wide range of collaborations between the CCC, CSU and UC:

- Staff, faculty and libraries sharing cost-efficiency strategies for students
- Leveraging existing technologies (MERLOT, for example) to effectively and efficiently deliver the COOL4Ed project

IMPACT AND BENEFIT

- The COOL4Ed project produced an active, scalable and sustainable community of faculty and staff from the CCC, CSU and UC to support affordable learning solutions for CA students.
- Estimated savings of the AB 798 program is \$15 million by June 2018 and another \$30 million by June 2020.
- The COOL4Ed website won an Innovation Award from Directors of Educational Technology/California Higher Education (DET/CHE) and the Online Learning Consortium.

PROJECT TEAM

California Open Education Resources Council
CCC, CSU, UC

Gerry Hanley
CSU Office of the Chancellor

Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates
CCC, CSU, UC

Leslie Kennedy
CSU Office of the Chancellor

Kathy Harris
San Jose State University

Theresa Dykes
CSU Office of the Chancellor

LeBaron Woodyard
CCC Office of the Chancellor

UC California Digital Library
UC Office of the President

INVESTMENTS AND RETURNS

- A \$3 million allocation for AB 798 helped support CCC and CSU faculty and campuses implementing textbook affordability programs in 2017-18 and saw a \$5 million savings in one semester as a result of this funding.
- Expected savings over four semesters is \$45 million.
- The CSU administered \$1.7 million of the AB 798 funds to 26 CCC campuses and 19 CSU campuses, with each system receiving about \$850,000.
- Hewlett Foundation provided additional funds to support our annual California textbook affordability conference, which covered the cost of registration for the CCC, CSU and UC attendees as well as the cost of the conference.

FURTHER REFERENCES

