Open Educational Resources Pilot Program
NMC Innovation Grant
Final Report

1. What was your project? (briefly summarize)
This pilot was intended to help the NMC community learn about open educational resources (OER) and how we can best use OER to make college more affordable for our students. The project sponsored ten NMC faculty to revise one of their courses to use only free resources. Librarians helped them find potential materials; Educational Media Technologies provided technical and instructional design support. Each of the ten faculty received an iPad (or other tablet of comparable value) or $500.

2. Tell how your Project was “Innovative” and how it directly related to learning?
College courses are traditionally based on a standard textbook published by one of the large corporate publishers and which cost $100 or more. These textbooks are copyrighted and cannot be changed, shared, or adapted. The open educational resources movement is encouraging faculty to use a growing body of open textbooks which are freely available on the internet and licensed under Creative Commons licenses. These materials can be shared, edited, added to, and adapted. They can also be downloaded and printed at a very low cost.

Because of the high price of textbooks, students often start the semester without them as they wait for their financial aid or for online orders to arrive. Many students choose not to buy the textbook at all. Having all students begin the semester with their books increases their chance of success. Also, being free to choose and create their own materials, faculty are encouraged to bring new techniques and fresh ideas to their teaching which also translates into more student engagement.

3. Who was impacted by your project?
348 students and ten faculty members were involved in the project. The project has also had an impact on the NMC Bookstore.

4. How were they impacted? (results) (See Appendix.)
Students saved $58,826 over the cost of the textbook previously used in the class. We were only able to guess at the impact this project has had on the NMC bookstore. According to our survey of students, 58% of them would have purchased their books at the bookstore. Estimating a 25% markup, there was a loss in the neighborhood of $6,800 for the bookstore.
5. **In what ways were the results of your Project shared? (be specific)**
The results were shared in articles in the Record Eagle, The Ticker, 9&10 News, the White Pine Press, and the NMC website. Details were also posted in the OER and the Free & Open Textbooks LibGuides. Faculty shared their experiences at a panel discussion at Professional Development Day in October. We will be presenting to President’s Council and the Board of Trustees in February.

6. **Did you accomplish all that you had planned? Why? or Why not?**
We accomplished what we set out to do. We brought the concept of open textbooks to NMC. Many faculty and students learned about the potential for using OER to lower the cost of college and make teaching and learning more open. Librarians and educational technologists learned how to help faculty find and use non-traditional resources. As a “learn-by-doing” project, it was very successful.

7. **What is the current status of the project?**
The participants in this project will continue to teach with OER. Librarians and educational technology staff will continue to encourage and support faculty to experiment with OER and hopefully adopt open textbooks for their classes.

We have identified several ways to encourage the use of OER at NMC.
- Faculty need time to explore and training on how to identify and adapt open resources. We are planning to offer opportunities for this in the coming year.
- Because of the large investment of time required, we recommend offering a stipend to faculty (especially adjunct faculty) who commit to adopting OER.
- A clear statement of support from the administration encouraging faculty to explore and adopt OER would serve to alleviate any misgivings about this approach and open the way for others to get involved.
- We need a textbook policy that encourages the exploration of OER options whenever new textbooks are adopted.
- A partnership with the bookstore to provide low-cost printed materials for OER classes could benefit all parties.

8. **Briefly summarize how the dollars were used and if there are any remaining funds. (Please try to use specific amounts.)**

$3,455.14 for 7 iPads/Tablets
1,197.07 for 3 $500 stipends
273.31 MPSERS
74.48 FICA
$5,000.00 There are no remaining funds.
Tina Ulrich  
Library Director  
January 31, 2016

Appendix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name and Number of Course</th>
<th>Number of Students Enrolled in this course for Fall 2014</th>
<th>Prices for new textbooks</th>
<th>Student Savings</th>
<th>Lost Bookstore Revenue per Student</th>
<th>Lost Bookstore Revenue per Course [1]</th>
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<td>Brian Sweeney</td>
<td>PHY105, Physics of the World Around Us</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Deb Pharo</td>
<td>MTH 120 Mathematical Explorations</td>
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<td>Tom Gordon</td>
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<td>Marilyn Jaquish</td>
<td>BUS 231 Professional Communications</td>
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<td>Deb Menchaca</td>
<td>Math for Manufacturing MFG 111</td>
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<td>Gary Howe</td>
<td>World Regional Geography 109</td>
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<td>Lisa Blackford</td>
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<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
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<td>348</td>
<td></td>
<td>$58,826.00</td>
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<td>$6,800.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[1] According to the student survey, 57.8% of the students would have bought their books from the NMC bookstore