Open Education Initiative Faculty Grants (2017-18) support Virginia Tech faculty willing to create or adapt open educational resources and openly licensed learning supplement or systems as an alternative to traditional textbooks and homework software access codes. We facilitate this by selecting promising faculty-proposed projects, encouraging the use of existing openly licensed content and technology, leveraging campus expertise including pedagogy, instructional design, accessibility, copyright, and publishing, and by providing referrals to entities outside the University. Selection is competitive and proposals are peer reviewed. Projects are faculty-led and distinguished by their use, adaptation, or creation of resources with Creative Commons licenses. Projects are intended to result in use, adaptation and/or development of a broad array of openly licensed learning resources, textbook alternatives, course readers, assessment tools, ancillary materials, etc. and a resulting increase in faculty interest in teaching and decrease in direct student costs. Textbook authoring is not a requirement of the grant program.

The long-term goal of the Open Education Initiative Grants is to cultivate and support development of a network of faculty who implement, develop, and adapt open educational resources in support of student learning, and to encourage the broad sharing of open educational resources as part of Virginia Tech’s land-grant mission. Additional literature on open educational resources and example projects is available at: http://guides.lib.vt.edu/oer

Open Education Initiative Faculty Grants are a project of the Virginia Tech Libraries.

Rationale
Institutional incentives do not always reward faculty who value teaching and learning. This initiative provides opportunities, funding, and support for faculty who wish to invest in creative approaches to using or creating Creative Commons licensed works in their courses.

The high cost of commercial print textbooks and learning software is a major concern for students and increasingly for faculty and administrators, who are exploring new ways to curb increasing costs—e.g. textbook rentals and used textbooks through the University Bookstore and textbook reserves and multi-user eBooks purchased by the University Libraries.

Additional approaches are now possible given development and growth of content licensed with Creative Commons intellectual property licenses, expanded culture of sharing, more readily available publishing, learning, and archival platforms for digital scholarship, teaching, learning, and content dissemination, institutional financial and technical support, and faculty willingness to explore and implement open educational resources as legitimate and effective options.

Eligibility
Virginia Tech faculty with teaching responsibilities are eligible to apply. Faculty awardees at non-Blacksburg locations will receive the same level of assistance as faculty located at the Blacksburg campus.

Grant monies are exclusively for the implementation or development and distribution of Open Educational Resources (OER) as defined here by the Hewlett Foundation. Applicants wishing to use for-fee licensed-materials (including library materials), free online materials without a CC-
license, or non-transferable works “used with permission” are welcome to request technical support from the Open Education Initiative but projects using such works are not eligible for grant funding.

Awards for the year FY 2017-18 include up to four grants of up to $3,000 each.

Proposals submitted must describe how the faculty member or faculty team will use funds to meet project needs.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with reviews beginning the first business day of every month. Awards are anticipated to be announced two weeks after the review period begins. Projects are expected to be completed within twelve months of initial award.

These awards are funded by the Virginia Tech Libraries (VTL). Service referrals are offered by VTL Scholarly Communication, VTL Publishing Strategy and VTL Teaching and Learning Engagement. Additional service referrals are offered in collaboration with Learning Experience Design (LED) and Assistive Technologies (AT), both units of Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS), a division of Information Technology, Virginia Tech’s Center for Instructional Development and Educational Research (CIDER), and various non-VT partners of the University Libraries.

Support Expectations
The University Libraries will provide assistance, guidance and referrals in the areas of project design, finding existing openly licensed resources, Creative Commons licensing and attribution, Copyright, MOUs for paid and volunteer students working on projects, graphic design, website and E-publishing platforms, print-on-demand solutions, instructional design, learning pedagogy, resource hosting/archiving, and metadata. Referrals to additional services may include copy editing, peer review management, typesetting, LaTeX etc.

Funding and Expectations of Grantees
Funds will be transferred to the lead faculty member’s department in two increments: 50% when the first benchmarks are complete, and 50% when the remaining benchmarks are reached.

First 50% of funds will be released to the lead faculty member’s department when the grantee has:
- Attended the 1.5 hour grantee workshop
- Met with the Open Education project team to identify project needs
- Submitted a project plan, summary of expected needs, and timeline
- Submitted a peer review plan (faculty and/or student)
- Submitted an OER impact study proposal

The remaining 50% of funds will be released to the lead faculty member’s department when:
- Their project plan has been implemented
- The output is openly licensed (CC BY most open license available)
- The output is publicly shared via a public portal (limited access for testbanks, etc.)
- Evidence of peer review is submitted
- 1-page project evaluation has been received
- OER was presented to grantee(s)’ Department Head(s) for approval
- Indication of intent to participate in Faculty Showcase
- Indication of agreement to implement OER in their course for two semesters
• Indication of intent to assess the impact of their open educational resource during or after one semester of implementation
• Indication of intent to report enrollment each semester their OER is in use

After final payment, grantees are required to:
• Implement their OER content in their course for at least two semesters
• Participate in a Faculty Showcase
• Assess the impact of their open educational resource during or after one semester of implementation
• Report enrollment each semester their OER is in use

**Intellectual Property**

Creators retain ownership of their intellectual property. The University Libraries does not assert ownership of creators' intellectual property. However, grantees are expected to license their projects with a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) (or the most open license possible) and to make the works available via the internet for free use. (Limited public access is permitted for assessment tools such as test banks, etc).

Projects should be based upon the grantee’s own work, existing Creative Commons licensed works (allowing derivatives), or [public domain](https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain) works. Projects must avoid incorporation of works with non-transferable permission, 3rd party for-fee licensed-materials (including library-subscribed resources), and free online materials without a CC-license.

Grantees are prohibited from transferring or licensing rights to their learning resource in ways that would limit the material from being editable and freely available, or from being licensed with the most open Creative Commons license possible (i.e. grantees are restricted from signing commercial publication agreements for their learning resource which may restrict free public access and/or limit modification.)

**Criteria for Funding**

1. Project is understandable and manageable
2. Reduces student learning costs
3. Impacts reduced learning costs for large numbers of students
4. Quality and rigor equivalent to works listed in governance-approved courses applications
5. Contributes to innovations in university curricular activities
6. Results in creation and public distribution of open educational resource(s)
7. Supports the strategic goals of the University
8. Aligns with current academic initiatives and priorities, and is coordinated with efforts across the College, discipline, or program
9. Complies with any/all state regulations and accreditation requirements
10. Course has already been approved through the governance process
11. University Library and affiliated partners can reasonably support proposed projects.

Applications will be reviewed by a peer-review committee consisting of Virginia Tech faculty with additional representation from the University Libraries, TLOS, and CIDER.
Application Process
Elements of a complete proposal include the following FOUR items:
1. Online application (includes project narrative)
2. Letter of agreement
3. Current Syllabus
4. Governance-approved syllabus and coversheet (available from: gkinder@vt.edu)
5. (optional) Sample of materials already created on which you plan to build your project

We recommend that you first download and review elements 1 and 2 before beginning an application.

After completing the online form, please attach and send the remaining three documents to: arwalz@vt.edu with the subject line: OEL Faculty Grant Application

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with reviews beginning the first business day of every month. Awards are anticipated to be announced two weeks after the review period begins. Projects are expected to be completed within twelve months of initial award.

Questions or comments? Please contact Anita Walz arwalz@vt.edu or 540-231-2204