June 15, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: SUNY Presidents, Chief Academic Officers & Campus Governance Leaders

From: Alexander N. Cartwright, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor &
Eileen McLoughlin, Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer

Subject: Distribution of new Open Education Resource (OER) Funding

We are pleased to announce plans for the distribution of funding SUNY received in the 2017-18 New York State Budget to support the adoption and expansion of Open Education Resources (OER) across the System in high-enrollment courses, including General Education.

As you know, OER are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and re-purposing by others. They range from full courses and course materials to textbooks, streaming videos, tests, and software. OER have been growing in popularity as a mechanism to drive down student costs and we have already seen this working in practice at SUNY. Tompkins Cortland Community College, for example, is projecting to reach $1M in textbook savings for 10,000 students this year, year two of its OER efforts.

With the support of the SUNY Student Assembly and growing interest among faculty, SUNY System has been increasing support of OER activities, through its Innovative Instruction Technology Grants and designation of a SUNY OER Services team.

SUNY OER Services now offers access to a platform, through Lumen Learning, that provides faculty with a tool to adopt OER for their courses and edit and revise the content, ensuring it aligns to their curriculum. OER empowers SUNY faculty with the ability to customize teaching and learning materials based on their course learning objectives. The team will increase the number of vendors on contract over the coming year.

The model for distribution of this new funding is designed to ensure that each participating campus gets a baseline level of funding, while providing a per-enrollment incentive to increase OER adoption across the system.

Participating Campuses will Receive Funding as Follows

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<th>Baseline Investment</th>
<th>Individual Section Incentive</th>
<th>All course section investment</th>
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<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$8 per student</td>
<td>$15 per student</td>
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• $20,000 to **each participating campus**
• $8 per student enrollment for **individual OER class sections**
• $15 if **every section of a general education course moves to OER**
• This means an additional $7 per student will be offered to a campus that moves **every** section of a general education course to OER.

Campuses that utilize commercial organizations to support their OER efforts can generally assume costs of $10 - $30 per student enrollment. For OER enrollments this year, SUNY System will utilize the OER funding to cover the costs of all enrollments charged by the vendors.

**Requirements for Designation as a Participating Campus**

• Maintain the redesigned course as OER for three years.
• Develop a sustainability model for OER adoption. Mark McBride mark.mcbride@suny.edu from SUNY Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) can help provide examples of funding models (e.g., course fees, utilization of student tech fees, etc.)
• Share OER enrollment information (course section, course number, etc.), how the money was invested, and the amount of student savings that were realized from this investment.
• Campuses may be asked to participate in a research study led by the University at Buffalo Open Education Research Lab.
• Faculty and staff participation in the SUNY Professional development program on OER. One may attend a day long regional OER event, take part in an online training, or a combination of both.

Additional information on specific actions will be coordinated with the campus OER Campus Lead.

To indicate a willingness to participate in this program, please fill out the form at the link below where you will be asked to designate person to lead for your campus initiative:

https://textbooks.opensuny.org/nys-oer-money-allocation/

**Additional Details**

• Classes currently utilizing OER will be counted as OER enrollments for this year.
• The System Office for Institutional Research and Data Analytics has added an OER identifier in SIRIS. Starting in Fall 2017 data, the number of OER sections being offered in SUNY will be collected.

Please direct questions to: Mark McBride, Library Senior Strategist at mark.mcbride@suny.edu.

Copy:
President, University Faculty Senate
President, Faculty Council of Community Colleges
President, SUNY Student Assembly
Campus Business Officers
Campus Chief Information Officers
Campus Library Directors (SCLD)
Directors of Online Learning (Doodle)