<u>Developing Open Education Leaders for 21st Century Libraries</u>
Open Textbook Network (Regents of the University of Minnesota)

Escalating textbook costs in higher education negatively impact students' academic success, especially those students who are most financially vulnerable. The Open Textbook Network (OTN) is a rapidly growing consortium of colleges and universities with members that include 41 individual academic libraries and six library consortia representing 300 libraries total. Housed at the University of Minnesota, the OTN is committed to advancing the use of open textbooks and requests $240,314 to develop twelve librarians to become national Open Education Fellows to deliver faculty workshops and professional development for their colleagues throughout the nation, creating new librarian leaders in the open education movement.

Statement of National Need

The focus on open textbooks is a nationally significant and timely movement, due to escalating educational costs of higher education and course materials, and the changing technological landscape. Students report that they frequently take fewer courses, drop courses, and even fail courses because of the cost of their textbooks[1].

An increasing number of institutions are looking to open textbooks as a solution. Open textbooks are funded, published, and licensed to be freely used, adapted, and distributed. These books can be downloaded at no cost. Since its inception in 2014, the OTN has helped its member libraries save students an estimated $3.1 million by developing effective models that lead to faculty adoptions (45% of participating faculty) of open textbooks and running faculty workshops at member campuses. To scale this successful effort, more workshop leaders are needed. OTN member libraries have identified leadership development in the open textbook movement as a top priority.

Project Design

The goal of this project is to create a national network of librarians with expertise in building successful local open textbook programs. This network will begin with selection of twelve Open Education Fellows who will become regional trainers in the program. These competitive fellowships will begin with a week-long workshop where participants will learn strategies for running open textbook programs and for running workshops for librarians. The workshop curriculum will include:
1. Foundational understanding of open education, and why it's of value to higher education.
2. Barriers to open education and strategies to overcome those barriers
3. Campus open education/textbook program models
4. Strategies for educating and engaging faculty
5. Forging alliances with other institutional partners to build strong programs

Following the week-long workshop, fellows will take a national leadership role in a number of ways:
1. Visit campuses across the country to facilitate faculty and librarian workshops. The librarian workshops will help institutionalize open education expertise.
2. Host regular online "office hours" for librarian colleagues. In these office hours, fellows can address local questions and scenarios, support next steps, and foster community focused on action and problem solving.
3. Contribute to the field through conference proposals and articles. Contributions can be made at the local, regional, and national level and include articles in peer-reviewed library publications.

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[1] Florida Virtual Campus. (2012). 2012 Florida Student Textbook Survey. Tallahassee, FL: Author.

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The timeline of this project:

<u>October 1, 2017 - November 30, 2017</u>: Project kickoff. Creation of OTN workgroup to help develop criteria for fellows selection. Begin fellowship planning.
<u>December 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017</u>: Fellowship application open.
<u>January 15, 2018</u>: Fellowship selection announced.
<u>April 9, 2018 - April 13, 2018</u>: Fellowship workshop held.
<u>April 16, 2018 - September 30, 2019</u>: Fellows travel to campuses to offer workshops.
<u>April 16, 2018 - September 30, 2019</u>: Fellows offer online "office hours" online for local leaders.

The OTN will keep a permanent record of participants of the librarian workshops and office hours and offer micro-credentials to them as evidence of their efforts and time working on open education.

This project will be planned and managed by Dr. David Ernst, Chief Information Officer in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Ernst is also Director of the Center for Open Education and Executive Director of the Open Textbook Network. Sarah Cohen, OTN's Managing Director, will guide the development of the programming. Dr. Ernst and Ms. Cohen both have many years of experience developing professional development.

Diversity Plan

The high cost of textbooks negatively impacts students' academic success, especially students who are already financially vulnerable, such as first generation students. This project has the capacity to spread best practices of open education at a national level. Librarians are ideally situated to make change happen at their institutions by supporting faculty who want to work with open content.

National Impact

The Open Education Series has the potential to engage thousands of librarians nationally, moving the open education movement forward through community action. Fellows will have the opportunity to become national experts, sharing their knowledge with the profession and allowing for scalability. With this in mind, all training and support content will be licensed CC BY (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0) for reuse and adaptation by others in the field. Upon completion of the grant, this program will be sustained by OTN membership fees or by small workshop fees as appropriate.

Budget

The total budget for this two-year project is $240,314 over two years, including $79,800 in salaries (principal investigator - $28,800; managing director - $34,400; director of publishing and collections - $16,600) and $26,887 in benefits for staffing on the project. Expenses totaling $20,000 are budgeted for the Open Education Fellowship workshop, and $30,000 budgeted for travel for the fellows to the workshop and to campuses to give campus workshops. The OTN will contract with a micro-credentialing company to manage the recordkeeping and micro-credentialing ($24,000). Indirect costs (33% MTDC) of $59,627 are also budgeted. After the end of the grant, the fellows' ongoing work will be supported by OTN membership fees.