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| **Plan Title** | EmpowerED Pathways -- Bridging the Digital Divide with OER and Personalized AI Assistance at Fresno City College |
| **Plan Description** | **Introduction:** The EmpowerED Pathways initiative is designed to dismantle educational and economic barriers faced by Fresno City College students by implementing a dual-approach strategy. This strategy integrates Open Educational Resources (OER) to alleviate the financial burden of textbooks and a Personalized AI Assistant to provide support akin to services available to students at more affluent institutions.  **Objectives:**   1. To facilitate the widespread adoption of OER materials by faculty across diverse disciplines, reducing or eliminating the cost of textbooks for students. 2. To develop and implement a Personalized AI Assistant that can provide academic and administrative support to students, tailored to their individual schedules and needs. 3. To bridge the digital divide by equipping students with digital literacy skills and access to cutting-edge technology, fostering equity in educational opportunities.   **Methodology:**   * **OER Integration:** Workshops and incentives for faculty to adopt and integrate OER materials into their curriculum. * **AI Assistant Development:** A collaborative process involving lead faculty, programming students, and potential contractors to build and train a chatbot using the OpenAI API, ensuring it can understand and respond to student inquiries effectively. * **Pilot Programs:** Implementing the chatbot within the "Connecting Minority Communities" pathway and the Web Developer degree, with further integration into the "Computer Programming Essentials" certificate program.   **Training and Fine-Tuning:**   * Utilizing tokens from OpenAI to train the AI Assistant with a vast array of educational interactions, ensuring it learns the nuances of student needs and questions. * Ongoing fine-tuning with the help of students and faculty to optimize the chatbot’s performance for academic and personal support.   **Outcomes:**   * Improved access to educational resources with a reduction in textbook costs. * Enhanced student support and academic performance through the use of the AI Assistant. * Elevated digital literacy among traditionally underserved student populations.   **Timeline:** A detailed three-year and one-quarter timeline will be established, outlining the development phases, training periods, pilot testing, and full-scale implementation across participating programs.  **Budget Overview:** A transparent financial plan covering OpenAI API usage, cloud hosting services, faculty reassign time, and additional resources necessary for the project's execution.  **Evaluation and Sustainability:** A robust evaluation framework to measure the project’s impact on student success and strategies for maintaining the AI Assistant and OER adoption post-funding period.  **Conclusion:** EmpowerED Pathways represents a transformative step towards educational equity at Fresno City College. By leveraging open resources and personalized technology, we aim to level the playing field for our students, enabling them to achieve their academic goals with fewer obstacles. |
| **Lead Institution** | Fresno City College |
| **Community College District** | State Center CCD |
| **Start Year for this plan** | 2023-24 |
| **Start quarter for this plan** | Q1 |
| **The funding year for this plan** | 2024-26 |
| **The number of fiscal years this plan with span** | 2 years |
| **Contacts** | Dennis Mohle, CIT Department, Business Division |
| **Acceleration Grants Program Plan**   1. **Proposed Program Pathway**   **1.1 Please provide the program pathway name below** | Business Pathway - Digital Equity and Access |
| **1.2  Please provide the program pathway TOP code below.** | 0708 |
| **1.3 Please select the program pathway award type from the list below:** | Degree and Certificate |
| **1.4 Is this a new or existing program pathway converting to ZTC?** | New |
| **1.5 If this is a new program pathway, does the program meet one of the following criteria?** | Yes |
| **2. For this program pathway, please provide the number of courses already available to students as zero textbook cost. To the extent possible, please identify the specific courses.** |  |
| **3. How many courses in this program will need to be converted to zero textbook cost to offer students a complete ZTC program pathway? To the extent possible, please identify the specific courses.** |  |
| **4. In which academic term are you planning to have the first course of the ZTC program pathway available for students to enroll?** |  |
| **5. General Education (GE)**  **5.1 Please list the transferable GE courses that will be in the ZTC pathway program and provide links to any OER currently being used for these courses.**  **5.2 If there is a gap in general education courses, how will the college fill that gap?** |  |
| **5.2.1 (Other) If other, please explain in the space below.** |  |
| 6. Non-Duplication Efforts **6.1 What steps did the college take to determine that your proposed ZTC program pathway will not duplicate other existing ZTC program pathways, and if appropriate, please describe what is unique about your program pathway.** |  |
| **6.2 How will the college prioritize using existing OER content in your ZTC program pathway to avoid creating additional, duplicate OER content?** |  |
| 7. Sustainability **7.1 Describe the college’s plan for sustainability of this ZTC program pathway after the grant funding is exhausted. Include how ZTC content will continue to be updated and available to students.** |  |
| 8. Collaboration **8.1 Does the college have a multi-member team working on zero textbook cost program pathway development?** |  |
| **8.2 Is the college collaborating with other colleges within the local college district?** |  |
| **8.3 Is the college collaborating with other colleges outside the local district?** |  |
| **8.4 Will the college collaborate with a CSU or UC to support transferability of the ZTC program pathway? (e.g., engage faculty reviewers from a CSU or UC to better support articulation.)** |  |
| 9. Budget **9.1 In the budget section, include the proposed budget for Program Pathway #1, up to $200K, by budget code.** |  |
| **Supporting Documents** |  |