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## LEARNING LOG

### Open Educational Resources for Student Success

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## DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

### TITLE

Open Educational Resources for Student Success

### SOLUTION

Digital Learning and Next Generation Digital Courseware

### CAPACITIES

Information Technology

### Owner



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### Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



### INSTITUTION

Indian River State College

## REFLECTION

### SITE INITIATIVE

The potential of OERs is currently a hot topic in higher education, with OERs offering numerous benefits to students, faculty, and institutions. As cost-saving options for students, as well as innovative instructional resources for faculty members, OERs may assist in increasing student performance, retention and completion rates, and overall learning satisfaction within educational institutions (Delimont, Turtle, Bennett, Adhikari, & Lindshield, 2016; Hilton & Laman, 2012; Jacobs, 2012; Judith & Bull, 2016). The Virtual Campus of Indian River State College has committed to an Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative with the goal of actively supporting faculty in OER adoption, with specific attention devoted to instilling skills of identification and appropriate integration of OER materials into online course curricula. Virtual Campus instructional designers, along with IRSC research librarians, guide faculty members as they select OERs and help them to integrate those resources into online courses.

### PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

When the Virtual Campus began offering online courses in 2013, only a handful of classes and instructors utilized OERs. While these resources supplemented textbook content, the OERs were not comprehensive enough replace textbooks in those online courses. After four years of supporting the use of OERs, the Virtual Campus catalog includes 20 courses that solely utilize open resources. These online classes contain an array of OER formats, such as videos, articles, websites, wikis, podcasts, open textbooks, and instructor-created content. In this model, subject matter experts (faculty) select quality OERs, and the Virtual Campus instructional designers recommend best practices for integrating selected materials into online course design. This allows faculty and instructional designers to develop a close rapport, faculty members hone skills in building OERs effectively into their online courses, and students obtain a rich learning experience without incurring additional costs.

### Steps taken to support this initiative include:

**Campus-wide workshop series-** Regular workshops co-hosted by Virtual Campus staff and research librarians provide faculty with opportunities to learn about OERs and related topics, including copyright, Fair Use, licensing, open access, and public domain.

**One-on-one consultations-** Online courses receive focused attention from VC instructional designers, who work one-on-one with faculty members. Together, they brainstorm what resources, often OERs, to add to a course to augment student experiences. This collaboration allows for instructional designers to guide faculty members through the design of a course utilizing OERs, a practice not many faculty have engaged in before. This element of the program is vital since faculty are often hesitant to replace textbooks with OERs.

**Recommended online resources-** The VC team shares commonly used OER repositories with faculty and encourages them to peruse the sources regularly. By directing faculty members to quality OER materials, the VC team initiates faculty members’ informal learning and exploration of OERs.

IMPACT❶

As textbook affordability becomes a focus at Indian River State College, a successful initiative would cause a shift in the use of expensive publisher resources to peer-reviewed quality OER content, which would be free of charge to students.

Qualitative data would include the feedback from students who used the OER content in their courses. Quantitative data would include course success rates of the OER courses.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES❶

Collaborative efforts by the Virtual Campus team and the IRSC research librarians were critical to launching this initiative.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS❶

Next steps include: identifying change agents within the departments who have embraced the use of OERs, and partner them with Virtual Campus staff to host sessions in the Institute for Academic Excellence, the professional development space for College faculty; and seeking grant opportunities and/or partnerships with institutions that support OER resources

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES❶

Challenges:

- Faculty acceptance and buy-in is always critical to the sustainability of initiatives
- Certain subject matter lends itself more readily to this content strategy

Opportunities:

- Cost savings to students
- Customization is possible for faculty (adapt, revise and remix) content more so than publisher content

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS❶

What subjects/ types of classes worked well with your OER initiative?

How does the data bear out in these courses (course success rates, learning outcomes)?

STATUS

Final

Completion Date❶

5/31/2017

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Christina Hart (/education/s/profile/005360000046lyGAAQ) (Indian River State College) updated this record.  
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