Announcing Open edX Impact

I am excited to announce **Open edX Impact**, an independent grant program [*supported by edX and AWS*] that provides free technology consulting services and IT cloud infrastructure resources to online education projects powered by Open edX. The program is open to chartered educational institutions, non-profits, NGO's, and EdTech startups. The program will launch [*November 1, 2018*]. Please bookmark [*ADD URL HERE*] and opt-in to push notifications to keep abreast of program updates and announcements. You can also follow the program on Slack here [*https://openedx.slack.com ADD CHANNEL*]

What the Grant Program Provides

Grant recipients will receive up to 40 hours ($5,000 value) of free technical consulting services from Open edX community experts who will help with planning, installation, configuration and administration of the Open edX platform. Grant recipients will also [*automatically*] qualify for the AWS Activate "Builders" program, which provides $1,000 USD in cloud infrastructure services as well as credits for AWS online training materials and labs.

How to Apply

Applicants will submit a two-page essay describing their project. An independent panel will evaluate essays, selecting three winners each calendar quarter (i.e. twelve grant recipients each year). Essays can be submitted in Chinese, English, Spanish, and Hindi. Projects will be evaluated based on these fundamental criteria:

1. Program. Describe your education program objective and its anticipated impact. Make sure to also describe what alternatives exist for your target learners because the panel is interested in the potential _relative_ impact that your program will have. A high impact program reaches learners who suffer from a lack of alternatives.

2. Team. Describe the operational roles for your project and provide Bios for all key team members. The panel is interested in your vision of how the integration of these roles will enable you to achieve your stated program goals. Additionally, they are equally interested in the mosaic of your team members' backgrounds and how their varied experiences will add value to your program.

3. Reach. How many learners do you anticipate using your platform? More is better than less.

4. Resources. The Open edX Impact program specifically looks for cases in which financial resources and technical know-how are the only two resources preventing the an otherwise successful online educational program. Be specific about the availability of

financial assistance in your area at the community, municipality, province and national levels.

Grant recipients will be featured on our program web site, and we will monitor and be reporting on the continued successes of these projects over time. We will also petition grant recipients from time to time to volunteer as mentors to future program applicants.

Volunteer at Open edX Impact

Give back to the Open edX community, or, pay it forward! Open edX Impact needs your help. You can apply to volunteer at [*ADD URL HERE*]. Roles are as follows:

1. Technical Guru. Provides planning, configuration, installation, administration, emergency support, and training to grant recipient programs. You will serve one grant recipient (your, "client"). You need to be willing to commit up to 5 hours per week to your client. You will be required to complete a brief technical orientation program that is intended to ensure continuity in how the program provides these services. To qualify to be assigned your first client you must
   a. Publish technical how-to articles to the program blog, receiving at least 1,000 visitor views. You can publish as many articles as you want, provided that the blog editor accepts these.

   b. Successfully complete and demonstrate each essential consulting service, which currently consists of the following:
      i. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/open-edx-installation/
      ii. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/open-edx-ssl-encryption/
      iii. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/open-edx-custom-theming-tutorial/
      iv. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/open-edx-setup-smtp-email/
      v. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/open-edx-complete-backup-solution/
      vi. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/restore-open-edx-from-a-backup/
      vii. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/open-edx-custom-static-pages/
      viii. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/how-to-install-an-xblock/
      ix. https://blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com/upgrading-open-edx/

2. Translator. Provides written translations of Spanish, Chinese and Hindi essay applications to English. You should be prepared to commit to up to four hours of your time per month.

3. Community Manager. We need bloggers, editors and graphic artists! Your time commitment is flexible.

Illustrations:
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Annex I:

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Exploding interesting in edX has led to thousands of visits to my technical how-to blog by team members who are launching an online learning management system powered by Open edX software. I believe in the Open edX project, and this year I committed to invest my personal time and energy into helping to make this exciting technology more accessible to emerging market countries where it has the potential for even higher-impact.

2018 Visits to my Open edX How-To blog
blog.lawrencemcdaniel.com

	Users ↓	New Users	Sessions
	11,656	11,611	18,743
	% of Total: 100.00% (11,656)	% of Total: 100.01% (11,610)	% of Total: 100.00% (18,743)