

Dear Presidents,

In the coming weeks, a state-wide survey based on the Babson Survey Research Group will be made available to educators regarding Open Educational Resources (OER). We need your help in disseminating and promoting this survey to your faculty; their input will provide critical data to help guide the legislatively created Open-Source Textbook Task Force in Connecticut.

As you are probably aware, on average, students spend **\$1,200 per year on new textbooks**. More and more, students are opting to go without the textbook even with the understanding that their grades may suffer. Though there are some OER initiatives underway in the state already, there is more that can be done and this survey will help guide those efforts.

As part of **Special Act 15-18** adopted on July 2, 2015, the Connecticut Legislature asked Connecticut institutions of Higher Education to explore, assess, and promote the benefits of Open Education Resources in an effort to establish a pilot program that increases awareness and adoption of low/no cost, high-quality textbooks. The Task Force, created by this act, has been charged with supporting these efforts.

With your help, Connecticut will be only the second state to perform a state-wide assessment on Open Education Resources to better understand current awareness, potential information gaps, possible adoption opportunities, and any existing barriers to establishing Open Education Resources pilot programs in support of Special Act 15-18.

Together, we can positively impact student success by removing cost barriers to equitable access to high-quality course materials. To do this, we must first understand where any potential information gaps and barrier may exist.

Sincerely,

Representative Gregory Haddad and the members of the Open-Source Textbook Task Force:

Samon Azimi (Student)
University of Connecticut

Pat Banach
Eastern Connecticut State University

Daniel Barrett
Western Connecticut State University

Martha Bedard (Co-Chair)
University of Connecticut

James Brunt
Gateway Community College

Richard Burke (Student)
Fairfield University

Dan Byrd (Student)
University of Connecticut

Christopher Clark
University of Connecticut

Kevin Corcoran (Co-Chair)
Charter Oak State College/CTDLC

Susan Deane
Charter Oak State College

Cynthia Gallatin
Quinnipiac University

Clara Ogbaa
Gateway Community College

Sally Reis
University of Connecticut

