

**ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE GRANT
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On November 9, the academic senate was presented with a summary of information I obtained from the Fall Plenary. One of the issues specifically asked if BC would be interested in applying for an *Open Education Resource (OER) planning grant*. I included links to the grant and OER websites, and contact information.

Since that time I have been contacting faculty on campus and have learned many faculty already use OER, many are willing to explore the idea, and Sarah Baron reported she had positive feedback when she presented at Flex Week.

I would like the opportunity to present some information in order to clear up any misconceptions.

- 1) This is a planning grant. *It is used for professional development, etc. I am **not** asking for a vote on applying for the implementation grant.
- 2) No faculty or staff member is obligated to participate in the planning, training, or utilization of OER.
- 3) OER does NOT mean online. Most OER give the students the option of online access, downloading pdf, or buying the text.
- 4) OER is NOT just for online courses. It can be used in face-to-face courses.
- 5) The website cool4ed.org does not list the only OER and what it does list leads to other OER resources.
- 6) Instructors that come to training are not obligated to use any OER, or they may use it for half of their material. (I currently use half OER and half non-OER.)

Even if I fail and I am not able to develop an entire degree pathway using OER, I feel the training will benefit those of us that are interested, and hopefully interest a few more faculty so we may lessen the financial burden on our students. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

The link to the grant is:

<http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/OpenEducationResources.aspx>

The document can be found in the middle of the website near the top:

Zero-Textbook-Cost-Degree RFA [[pdf](#)] or [[Word](#)]

Section D begins with Planning Grant:

*Planning grants are designed to provide colleges with resources to plan for the development of a Zero-Textbook-Cost Degree. These funds are to assist colleges with research, professional development, meetings, coordination, and other resources and activities that are required to organize and discuss the components of adapting/creating these degrees and/or certificates.