

# OPEN ED UPDATES

KBOR Statewide OER Steering Committee Newsletter



[https://www.kansasregents.org/academic\\_affairs/open-educational-resources](https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/open-educational-resources)

Creative Commons icon by [Font Awesome](#) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 international license. Visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> for the legal deed.

## Creative Commons Certificate Program

Kansas participates in the Midwest Higher Education Compact, an organization which has on occasion hosted webinars touting the benefits of Creative Commons Certificate courses.

In 2024, with funding from the 2023 Mary Jo Williams Grant, members of the OER working group at Garden City Community College participated in the Creative Commons certificate programs for educators and librarians. The certificate programs are ten-week, asynchronous, cohort-based online courses offering online instruction, discussion forums, and application of concepts through the creation and publication of open resources.

Veronica Goosey, Associate Professor of English at GCCC, said that the certification program gave her the confidence to move forward with a textbook project: "After learning more about open licensing and applying those concepts in renewable assignments, I feel more prepared to work on our department's planned textbook for the Introduction to Literature course." The Creative Commons certificate program uses renewable assignments to both assess learning and teach aspects of open pedagogy.

## UPCOMING KS OER EVENTS

See recordings of recent events in the Kansas OER YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@kansasoer4803>

Kansas Library Association's CULS Spring Conference  
May 16-17, 2024  
There will be 3 OER sessions!

Watch for upcoming webinars in Fall 2024:

- OER & Copyright
- OER & A.I.
- OER Roundtable on Fine Arts

Visit Creative Commons to learn about the certificate program:

<https://certificates.creativecommons.org/>

Visit the OER Commons to find “Using Creative Commons Tools & Licenses to Create Open Educational Resources”: <https://oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/114963/overview>



## State & Regional OER Updates

The Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) recently completed a landmark survey of OER course marking at institutions of higher education. Review their findings at <https://www.mhec.org/convening/findings-oer-course-marking-landscape-analysis-survey>.

MHEC and DOERS3 are interested in supporting OER creation for workforce and CTE projects. Contact your steering committee representative for more information.

Join the Kansas OER Google Group to share events, seek assistance, or ask for recommendations:

<https://groups.google.com/g/kansas-oer>.

## Spotlight on System Schools

Fort Scott Community College

Ashley Page, Communication Instructor at Fort Scott Community College, has shifted to using OER textbooks in her courses for increased accessibility and lowered barriers for students. Page said, “Many students have shared that they didn’t purchase the textbook because it wasn’t covered with tuition, and they couldn’t afford it or wanted to save money and try to get by without it.” Removing textbook cost as a barrier has allowed students to start strong, since they can access open digital textbooks immediately. Page has observed students downloading open textbooks “to use on their phones for group work in class,” making learning more accessible.

Garden City Community College

Sara Gaut, Anatomy & Physiology instructor at Garden City Community College, initially moved to an OpenStax textbook for similar reasons, but said that “embracing the combined power of OpenStax and Perusall has been a transformative decision for me. The seamless integration of these platforms has not only eliminated the accessibility challenges I faced, but has also significantly enhanced my teaching experience. With OpenStax providing free, high-quality textbooks and Perusall offering an engaging collaborative discussion platform, I no longer struggle with students accessing course materials or engaging with the content.” Open textbooks erase access barriers, but they also facilitate instruction in other powerful ways.