

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Open Textbook Training and Reviews

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

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To support faculty interested in open textbook training and the reviewing of appropriate open textbooks for their classes.

This project will provide the opportunity for faculty to enroll in training and subsequently review an existing open textbook that may meet their curricular needs. Training will be provided at least three times before May 2016. Once faculty have participated in a training session they will be given the opportunity to review an open textbook that is located in the Open Textbook Library (open.umn.edu). Working with the Open Textbook Network and Library, once a review is completed faculty will have the opportunity to receive a \$200.00 payment for the contribution of the review.

FUNDING

Funding will be provided to cover the expenses of \$200 per faculty review for up to 175 faculty in FY16. This payment will be handled by the Open Textbook Network located at the University of Minnesota.

BACKGROUND

What are Open Textbooks (or Open Educational Resources, OERs)?

Open textbooks are real, complete textbooks licensed so teachers and students can freely use, adapt, and distribute the material. Open textbooks can be downloaded for no cost or printed inexpensively. Open Educational Resources (OERs) refers more broadly to digital materials and media that permits free access, customization, remix, and use.

Why Should You Care?

Education is expensive. If we can reduce textbook costs, students may be able to take more classes, complete their programs more quickly, and be more successful (because they have the materials they need!!)

Why Aren't All Faculty Using Open Textbooks?

There may be several reasons: 1) Faculty don't know about them; 2) Faculty are skeptical about the quality; 3) Traditional textbooks are familiar; 4) Open textbooks do not have publisher representatives promoting them.

Last year, faculty in four disciplines from across Minnesota State Colleges & Universities participated in a project to be trained and review textbooks. Working with the Open Textbook Network and Library (<http://open.umn.edu>), faculty reviewed materials and the results have been encouraging.

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Campus Open Textbooks Projects

TIMELINE AND PROCESS

November 1, 2015	Faculty request for participation opens and faculty can register to participate
November 25, 2015	Round 1 - Deadline to register for training
December 4, 2015	Round 1 - Training session held (remotely via WebEX)
December 4 - Jan. 22, 2016	Round 1 - Reviews take place
January 29, 2016	Round 2 - Deadline to register for training
February 3, 2016	Round 2 - Training session held (remotely via WebEX)
February 3 – March 11, 2016	Round 2 - Reviews take place
March 11, 2016	Round 3 - Deadline to register for training
March 16, 2016	Round 3 - Training session held (remotely via WebEX)
March 16 – April 29, 2016	Round 3 - Reviews take place

This year, the opportunity to participate is open to faculty (or teams of faculty) from any discipline. Please visit <http://www.asa.mnscu.edu/open> for more information or contact Todd Digby, todd.digby@so.mnscu.edu, 651-201-1812, to get involved.