



EASTERN GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Free College Program at EGCC: Partnerships and OER at Work

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Agenda

- Overview of AL\$ through MERLOT-SkillsCommons partnerships
- Show SkillsCommons AL\$ portal and then the EGCC
- Background of EGCC and it's priorities for AL\$
- How MERLOT-SkillsCommons help EGCC develop strategy
- Describe EGCC plan and how it was implemented; what was its goal/target?
- Describe what worked well and what need revision
- Describe the outcome - amount of savings, # of courses transformed, etc.
- Lessons learned



Talent is equally
distributed in a society but
Opportunity is Not.



Education
Empowers Talent
and Enables
Opportunity



Free and Open Educational
Resources hold the promise
to empower TALENTS and
enable OPPORTUNITIES
for ALL!



An Invitation to “OPEN” DOORS for ALL TO LEARN

- Open Educational Resources (OER)
- OpenCourseWare (OCW)
- Open Enrollment (MOOC's)
- Open TextBooks
- Open Access Journals

OPEN = Free of Cost
= Permissions to Use
= Free to Choose How to
Learn In Your Context



How can free and open
educational resources
increase the opportunities
to develop people's
talents?



Textbook Affordability Affects Access to Education and Graduation in a Timely Manner

2018 Florida students' responses to costs (survey)

- Take fewer courses (42.8%)
- Earn a poor grade (35.6%)
- Fail a course (22.9%)



How do you make it easy for faculty to adopt the no-cost and low-cost course materials?

MERLOT creates customized portals, branded for institutions to create their own curated collection of free and open educational resources



MERLOT is here to support your remote teaching and learning needs. [Learn more about our COVID-19 response.](#)



The MERLOT system provides access to curated online learning and support materials and content creation tools, led by an international community of educators, learners and researchers.

SmartSearch

Search the MERLOT Collection, Other Libraries, and the Web

[What is SmartSearch?](#)

Advanced Search by: [ISBN](#) | [Materials](#) | [Members](#)



California State University System

[Materials from my institution](#) | [Members from my institution](#)



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Open Library for Education

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Eastern Gateway Community College Open Library for Education



FIND

Looking for **FREE** and **OPEN** online materials for your courses?

-  [FREE and OPEN eTextbooks](#)
-  [FREE and OPEN Course Materials](#)
-  [FREE and OPEN Online Courses](#)



SHOWCASES

Looking for courses in academic disciplines that have recommended **FREE** and **OPEN** eTextbooks selected for them?

Looking for **FREE** and **OPEN** courseware and curriculum for career and technical education (CTE)



ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Looking for guidelines, tools, and methodologies for evaluating accessibility of the wide range of materials produced by the TAACCCT program? Explore the resources and tools for accessibility evaluation applied for these resources.

Preparing Teachers & Students for Online Learning



In response to the recent developments due to COVID19, Eastern Gateway Community College has partnered with SkillsCommons and MERLOT to create this FREE online resource to help both Teachers and Students prepare to start teaching and learning online.

Free Teaching and Learning Online Materials

Teaching Online



Teaching Online Resources
Free courses and resources to help you start teaching online.

Learning Online



Learning Online Resources
Free courses and resources to help your students learn how to learn online.

Career/Technical Ed Resources



Free Career & Technical Education Services
SkillsCommons offering free services to support workforce development and work-based learning.

Free Commercial Tech Services



Free Online Education Services



Accessibility



With COVID, MERLOT designed a custom Teaching & Learning Online Portal



With these tools, technologies,
and technical assistance....

How did Eastern Gateway
Community College save students
\$22.6 Million?



Overview of EGCC strategy

- Identify which courses to target
- Work with faculty to plan for the change
- Support faculty making the change
- Support from leadership
- Leverage existing OER for immediate benefit
- Assess the financial impact

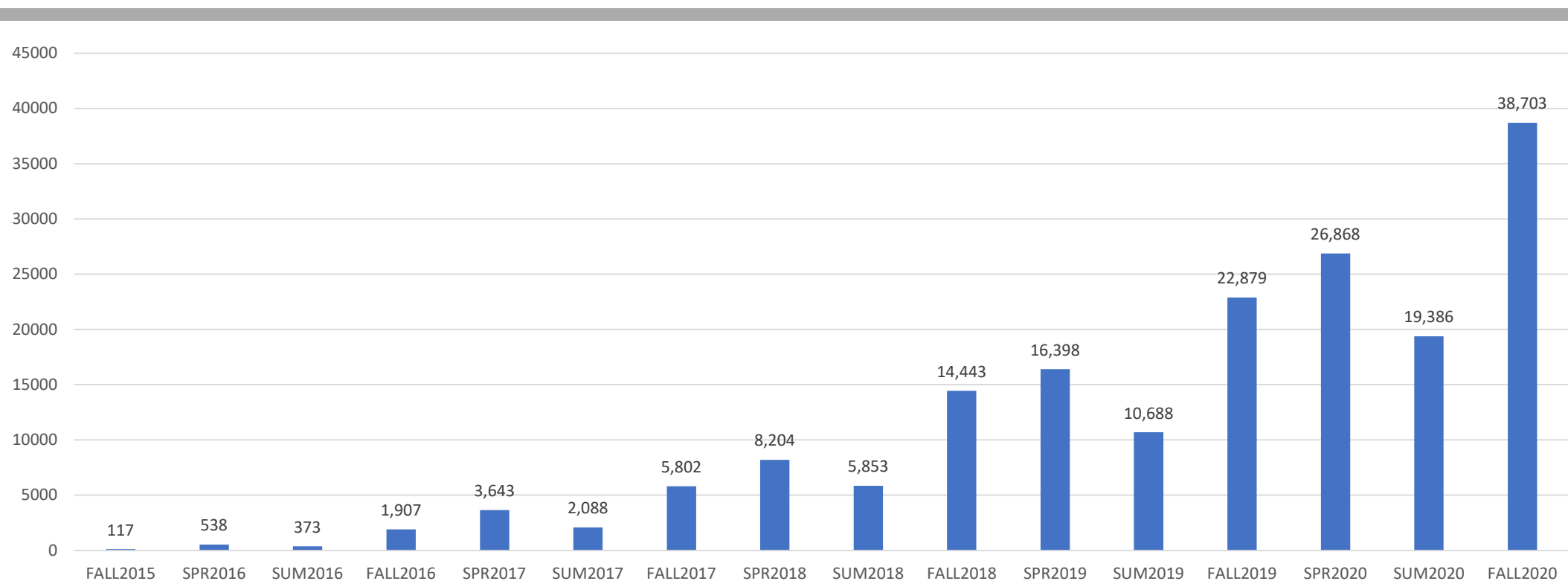


Eastern Gateway Community College

- Founded in 1966
- Steubenville/Youngstown/Online
- Open access, public, in-seat and online formats
- Service areas are some of the poorest zip codes in the United States
- Free College Program
- Including textbooks within Free College Program: makes the cost of textbooks an administration problem, not a student problem



EGCC Enrollment Growth



EGCC OER Strategy

- Board of Trustees Resolution (2018)
- President/Cabinet-Level support
- Dean of Online (Vanessa), Instructional Designers
- Budget/Faculty Contract
- Initial Faculty Buy-In, MERLOT training for those not-yet-bought-in
- Focus on Data/Reporting: Textbook adoptions, bookstore orders, new programs/courses



EGCC OER Execution

- Phase 1: Replace physical textbooks with digital (2015-16)
- Phase 2: Replace paid digital with free/low-cost OER (2017-2019)
- Phase 3: Build new OER for courses/programs where materials do not readily exist (2019-ongoing)



EGCC OER Results To-Date

- 200+ courses converted to free OER
- In the past three semesters, EGCC eliminated more than \$22.6M in textbook costs
 - Fall 2020: Eliminated \$11.3M
 - Summer 2020: Eliminated \$3.5M
 - Spring 2020: Eliminated \$7.8M
- Development of criminal justice, IT, cybersecurity, allied health



How was this possible?

- Make the cost of textbooks an administration problem, not a student problem
- Build support from entire organization: Trustees through faculty and staff
- Create a data-driven process: reporting on what is OER, what are the most expensive courses/textbooks, new program development includes OER search
- Partnerships to bring it all together!



Thank You!

Any Questions?



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