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Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 8:39 AM

To: "CURRICULUM@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET" <CURRICULUM@LISTSERV.CCCNEXT.NET>

Subject: AB 798, Bonilla, 2015 -- provides funding for campuses to support faculty and students choosing and using high quality no-cost and low-cost course materials.

Dear Colleagues.

National and state surveys have indicated that one reason students take fewer courses is the cost of their course materials, including textbooks. Recently passed legislation (AB 798, Bonilla, 2015) provides funding for campuses to support faculty and students choosing and using high quality no-cost and low-cost course materials. This email is designed to provide an overview of the funding opportunity, guidance for acquiring the funding, and upcoming support services that will help your campus be successful in acquiring the funding.

**ABOUT THE LEGISLATION:** The goal of the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015 is to reduce the costs of course materials for California college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of high- quality no-cost and low-cost course materials, especially Open Educational Resources (OER). The legislative strategy will be implemented through the OER Adoption Incentive Program, which provides funding for faculty professional development focused on significantly lowering the cost of course materials for students while maintaining the quality of materials. As part of the legislation, the State of California has allocated \$3 million dollars for the program, and each California State University and California community college can request up to \$50,000 for its campus program.

**WHAT ARE OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) and WHAT ARE OUR CHOICES?** OER are high-quality teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others. You can find a wealth of OER at the California Open Online Library for Education ([www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org)), though you are not restricted to this collection of materials for purposes of the AB 798 grants. You may also include other resources that are legally available and free of cost to students, such as ebooks and ejournals that are freely and legally available to all students. OER include, but are not limited to, full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, faculty-created content, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge.

**HOW DOES YOUR CAMPUS ACQUIRE THE FUNDING?** Your campus Academic Senate must complete two requirements:

1. Adopt a resolution that states its support to increase student access to high-quality OER and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students. The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has crafted a resolution template for local senates to use, if they desire:

**Whereas**, The significant rise in costs of textbooks is a barrier to college attendance, student access, and student success;

**Whereas**, Many colleges are interested in reducing the cost of textbooks to increase student access to necessary course materials; and

**Whereas**, The intent of the College Textbook Affordability Act of 2015 (AB 798, Bonilla, 2015) is to reduce costs for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of lower cost, high-quality, open educational resources (OER);

**Resolved**, That the Academic Senate of \_\_\_\_\_ support efforts to increase student access to high-quality open educational resources and reduce the cost of textbooks and supplies for students in course sections for which open educational resources are to be adopted to accomplish cost savings for students.

2. In collaboration with students and campus administration, create and approve a plan that describes evidence of the faculty's commitment and readiness to effectively use grant funds to support faculty adoption of OER. This approval can be signaled in the format of a resolution, a senate directive, or other locally established process, but the plan should be approved only after it has been vetted by faculty, students, and administrators.

These two requirements must be completed and submitted for review by June 30, 2016. For full details, review the legislation. The resources and support services on the California Open Online Library for Education website ([www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org)) include sample academic senate resolutions, sample templates for your proposal, easy access and discovery of OER, and more.

The faculty-led California Open Educational Resources Council (COERC) will be conducting webinars in the Spring of 2016 to review the resources and services available as well as distributing print and digital communications describing the opportunities and resources available. In addition, members of COERC will be available to provide advice and guidance about OER.

The COERC CCC representatives, as well as a newly created ASCCC Taskforce on OER, and COERC will be sending out additional memos and communications via social media and an online community connected to the COOL4Ed website.

Thank you for your participation in this important initiative. We will continue to distribute information about support services in the spring of 2016. If you have questions about this program, please email [info@asccc.org](mailto:info@asccc.org) or, for technical questions, [cool4ed@cdl.edu](mailto:cool4ed@cdl.edu)

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Senate Projects:

Academic Senate (<http://www.asccc.org>)

C-ID (<http://www.c-id.net>)

School to College Articulation (<http://www.statewidepathways.org>)

Providing leadership, empowerment and voice to California community college faculty