

University of San Diego

## Digital USD

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Digital Initiatives Symposium

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Apr 24th, 11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

### TED-style Talk: Open Roads: The Relevance of OERs at Community Colleges

Bill Blick

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## TED-style Talk: Open Roads: The Relevance of OERs at Community Colleges

### Presenter 1 Title

Electronic Resource Librarian

### Session Type

15-minute presentation

### Abstract

OER is a frequently used acronym that lately has become a sound byte in higher education, but means much more. Its paradigm is one that not only strives for affordable education, but one that ensures inclusion and diversity. This talk is designed to explore how Open Educational Resources are mutually beneficial to faculty, institutions and most importantly, students. I have witnessed on my campus that it is no secret that while academic publishers make record profits, many students struggle to meet the financial demands of their education. Implementation of OERs on a community college level is especially vital because of the investment in educating and retaining many first generation and high-risk college students. OERs make the dream of an affordable education a reality for many students, and the continued pursuit of dissemination of knowledge without a price tag is one worth fighting for.

### Location

KIPJ Theatre

### Comments

Professor Bill Blick holds a M.A. in English Literature and an M.L.S. from Queens College. He serves as the manager of Electronic Resources, and as a liaison for CUNY-Institutional Repository at QCC. He has published articles on Open Educational Resources, open access, popular culture, and library history. He has presented at the SUNYLA conference on OERs and has presented at conferences in places as diverse as Gdansk, Poland and Galway, Ireland. He has also helped facilitate an OER grant program for faculty new to OER at QCC.

# OPEN ROADS

THE RELEVANCE OF OERS AT A  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BY PROFESSOR BILL BLICK  
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# THE CHALLENGE OF GETTING AN EDUCATION

- Students face many challenges
  - Finance
  - Motivation
  - Employment
  - Time management challenges
  - Culture
  - Family life
  - Accessibility

# DIVERSITY-EQUALITY- AFFORDABILITY







# Global Impact



# THE MISSION OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- access to quality education regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or creed.
- nurtures creativity and cultivates critical thinking
- Preparedness for employment
- Transition to baccalaureate programs and grad school



# OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE: MISSION

- “Reduce the cost of college and increase the quality of pedagogy by ensuring that OER, including open textbooks, are freely available for postsecondary courses, and that OER-based degree pathways are widely accessible in community colleges. (Hewlett Foundation)”



## GOALS

- provide instructors with greater academic control and freedom in course content
- add to the pool of knowledge and resources for collaborative faculty work



# GOALS

- Provide high-quality resources at low cost
- Create standards, templates, and form
- Academic freedom and creativity

# CASE STUDY QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- “Queensborough Community College is dedicated to academic excellence and rigor and to providing an affordable, high-quality education to pre-college, college, and lifelong learners. Our faculty and staff are committed to the holistic development of today’s students in a nurturing and diverse environment that prepares them to be successful in a dynamic workforce. The College affirms its open admissions policy and its strong support of critical thinking, intellectual inquiry, global awareness, civic responsibility, and cultural and artistic appreciation.”

## DIVERSE NEEDS

- Basic needs i.e. food, transportation
- Underserved populations (1<sup>st</sup> Generation College students; At Risk Students)
- Non Traditional Students
- OER bridges a gap
- Facilitates learning by eliminating need and a focus on content



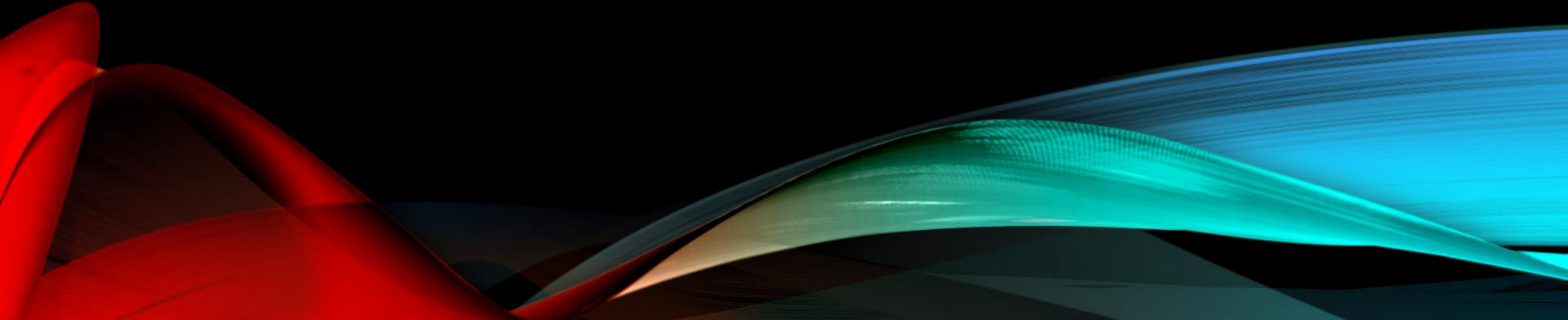
# MEETING THE CHALLENGES



# CHALLENGES

- Apathy and lack of awareness
- Lack of knowledge of available resources among both teaching faculty and librarians
- Fear of copyright infringement and the use of published material
- Fear of inability to articulate courses with that of four year programs
- Lack of faculty time due to large class loads
- Lack of funding

- Library workshops
- Publications
- Blogging
- Email campaign
- Speak at departmental meetings
- Libguides





Achieving the Dream™

Community Colleges Count

# ACHIEVING THE DREAM

- The Open Educational Resources (OER) Degree Initiative seeks to boost college access and completion, particularly for underserved students, by engaging faculty in the redesign of courses and degree programs through the replacement of proprietary textbooks with open educational resources. Over the next three years, the Open Educational Resources Degree Initiative will lay the groundwork for nationwide adoption of OER Degrees.



## ACHIEVING THE DREAM AT CUNY

- CUNY Consortium (Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College)

# GRANT FUNDING

- Internal constituents
- Local government
- Federal government
- Private funding (i.e. Hewlett Foundation)

# ZERO-COST TEXTBOOK/ QCC GRANTS

- Zero- textbook cost 2018-2019 at QCC
- Grants for faculty facilitating OERs from QCC Academic Affairs



# CUNY GRANTS

- State government endowed CUNY and SUNY with 4 million in grant money to facilitate the implementation of OERs.



# THREE TIER APPROACH

- Encourage and train faculty to develop OER materials for their Course
- Implement OERs in Courses
- Implement Cohorts of Zero-cost text book Degrees



# SHOWCASING OERS

- Academic Works/ institutional Repository
  - Math Faculty
  - Biology
  - History
  - Faculty track sharing and visibility
  - Provide workshopping and support
  - Very successful downloads (over 5000)

# THE REWARDS



# THE REWARDS AND OUTCOME

- Reduce costs for student
- Increase quality for faculty
- Alleviate challenges for education
- Serve first-generation and at risk population
- Eliminate price gouging
- Ensure diversity and equality