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|  | Activities Report: February 2015 For more information about ALG workshops, grants, no-cost-materials, and to subscribe to the ALG newsletter, please go to:  www.affordablelearninggeorgia.org |

# Programs and Strategies

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| **OER for Top Fifty Courses**  Potential cost savings: $100,000,000 per year | A framework to support adoption, adaptation, and creation of no-or-low-cost textbook alternatives through identification of OER (Open Educational Resources) for the top 50 USG lower division courses, which account for 1 million enrollments a year. |
| **OER for eCore**  Projected savings for USG eCore students in FY15-16: $2,362,740 | A partnership to support eCore to be zero-cost for textbooks. 15 courses in FY15, 6 in FY 16. While many states are working on affordable textbook and OER approaches, USG is unique in this opportunity to do so quickly at such scale. Working with eCore allows the USG to provide at-scale validation of quality options for textbook alternatives in the Top 50 courses. |
| **OER Textbook Transformation Grants**  Projected savings for USG students in FY15-16: $6,450,611 | Two RFP’s in Summer and Fall 2014 for proposals to support faculty exploration of no- or low-cost textbook alternatives. Round 1: 48 proposals received from 19 USG institutions. Of these, 30 proposals from 19 USG institutions were awarded grants to replace textbooks in specific courses in Spring 2015. All projects are underway, on track, and reporting compliance. Round 2: 78 proposals were received from 25 USG institutions. Of these, 27 proposals from 16 USG institutions were awarded grants, 10 in the specific course category ($10,800) and 17 in the At-Scale category (up to $30,000). |
| **Bookstore Program** | In order to help improve choice, affordability, and gather important data about textbooks in the USG, ALG has offered to support the use of Verba products in FY15 for any new customer among the USG college stores for FY15, along with Verba Collect for any existing Verba customer. Eleven USG college stores have asked to participate. Verba is a developer of data-driven applications that allow campus stores to be more competitive in the textbook marketplace while delivering lower cost materials to students and preserving market share. |
| **Symposium on the Future of the Textbook** | A 24.5-hour event held December 11-12. Over 140 USG attendees. Campus champions, library coordinators, and invited guests including many senior administrators, deans, chairs of Regents’ Academic Committees, and faculty representatives of USG campuses gathered at UGA to hear national speakers on textbook-related topics as well as USG faculty, librarians, students, university presses, and bookstores. Video of the keynote speakers will be made available on the ALG website, extending the reach of the event. |
| **Textbook Transformation Recognition Awards** | The *ALG Recognition Awards for Innovation and Early Success in Textbook Transformation* honored 24 pioneering faculty for their transformations of the textbook to no-cost Open Educational Resources, which saved USG students more than $1,000,000 in Academic Year 2014 alone. After an open nominations process, awards were presented during the closing program of the Symposium on the Future of the Textbook. |

# Outreach and Communications

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| **Campus Champions and Library Coordinators** | Meet monthly via webinar; provide important feedback to ALG and communications with campuses. Most have presented to their deans and/or other groups on campus. |
| **Regents Academic Committees** | Seeking leadership and feedback from the discipline committees, ALG presented to the Fall meeting of the Regents’ Academic Committee Chairs, and has or will be participating in the Spring Semester meetings of the Philosophy and Religion, History, Mathematics, English Academic Committees, as well as others yet to be scheduled. |
| **Conferences** | ALG has or will be presenting at the following conferences in Fall and Spring Semesters: COMO (Georgia Library Association), USG Computing Conference, Georgia Summit, Symposium on the Future of the Textbook, the California State University System Textbook Affordability Conference, the Rice University Open Stax CNX conference, and the USG Teaching and Learning Conference. |
| **Newsletter, Videos, Print**  Subscribe to the ALG newsletter: www.affordable  learninggeorgia.  org/newsletters | The ALG weekly newsletter is distributed to over 300 subscribers each week. ALG has produced or coordinated with campuses to highlight their videos on affordability of textbooks and campus efforts, including Georgia College and State University, Savannah State University, and Kennesaw State University. A video about the impact of textbook costs on USG students will be released shortly. |
| **Faculty Professional Development Events** | ALG is scheduling a series of webinars on key topics to take place over the next six months, as well as developing a program around highlights of the Textbook Symposium keynote speeches. A free ALG post-conference workshop is being offered in conjunction with the USG Teaching and Learning Conference. |