Transcript:
Tennessee Open Education Presentation, “Impact of OER at Tennessee State University”
March 8, 2022: 1:00 PM

Presenters: Robbie Melton, Deborah Chisom, Effua Ampadu, and Robert Hassell

(Ryan Korstange)

Well, we're waiting for Dr. Melton to join us, why don't we go through a couple of housekeeping details, and then maybe we can do some introductions and get some of that stuff out of the way. Uh, and then sort of get to the presentation um in a couple of minutes. Um, but first of all thank you for joining us today, uh, it's a busy week for lots of people and I appreciate you taking the time and being patient with us as we get this session um off the ground and underway. Uh, my name is Ryan Korstange, I'm a Director of Academic Affairs at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. And part of what I do here is work to coordinate some of the textbook affordability efforts that we're trying to work - work through statewide. This week - this week is Open Education Week. As you know, I'm sure, Open Education Week is an annual celebration. It's organized by OE Global and it provides an opportunity for the active sharing, uh, and learning about the latest achievements in Open Education worldwide. There are tons of events for Open Education Week and I'm going to drop a link into the chat right now where you can see all the variety of events that are happening across the world during this week. We have -- THEC is facilitating a set of 10 events.

Two were yesterday, two are today uh -- every week -- every day this week, we're - we're doing a webinar at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Uh, the full schedule is that second link I shared with you there it's on our THEC website uh and you can feel free to join us for any of those events, and you can pass on those events to any of your colleagues who, uh, may be interested in joining us also. Um -- yes, uh, okay, uh -- we're gonna record all these meetings. Uh, we'll share the recordings next week, we're going to share the recordings in two spots. So, we'll share the recordings through our listserv. We have a textbook afford... affordability Listserv. You can join that listserv by emailing us at academic.programs@tn.gov and we'll get you set up with that. You can also stay up to date with things that are happening in Open Education in Tennessee by joining our Tennessee Open Education Hub which is a place, t's an OER commons website, that we use to share information about, um, all of the open stuff that we're doing in Tennessee. I put the link in the chat to a guide that can help you register for an account on OE Commons and join some of the groups in our hub. So, that's all the information I have in terms of keeping up with open.

Uh, one point of logistics um what we're going to do today, this is a running as a webinar, so when you have questions you can feel free to drop your questions into the chat. We'll manage the chat. I'm here with my colleague Julie Roberts, we're managing the chat. We'll make sure - to sort of - bring questions, uh, to light later when there's room for questions. Um, and --so, put any questions that you have in the chat. You can also use the chat to chat, right. That's fine too.

Uh so, okay, that's all the introductory stuff that I have. Um, I wonder if we might start for a couple minutes with just introductions from the panelists who are here, and then maybe by the time we get to that -- we'll -- Dr. Melton will have joined us and we'll be able to get going.

(Deborah Chisom)

Okay. So, I'll start my name is Dr. Deborah Chisom and I am the executive director, uh, for OER and I also oversee, uh, eSports and I oversee alumni engagement. And so, uh, Dr. Hassell.

(Robert Hassell)

Thank you, Dr. Chisom. My name is Dr. Robert Hassell. I am here at Tennessee State University. I'm learning support staff for writing here, in the Tennessee State University writing center, and the HBCUstudent coordinator. Dr. Ampadu?

(Effua Ampadu-Moss)

Thank you, so much. my name is Dr. Ampadu-Moss, I am the director of HBCU, um, HBCU OER, as well as eSports alumni engagement, the Tiger smart podcast, and the smart technology center.

(Deborah Chisom)

And so, I guess we can get started. Dr. Melton said that we can get started. So, Dr. Ampadu, are you allowed to share your screen?

(Effua Ampadu)

Um, yes I can. Let me see.

(Deborah Chisom)

You probably need to remove that background.

You probably need to go out and come back in Dr. Ampadu.

Can you hear me Dr. Hassell?

(Robert Hassell)

Yes ma'am. I can hear you.

(Deborah Chisom)

Yeah, I don't -- I don't know what's going on with hers.

Okay, hold on everyone. We having technical difficulties

Okay, so it's not allowing you to share your screen?

(Effua Ampadu)

No. Let me go ahead and try, I pray, try that one more time. It's ask ... tell ...talk about some firewall issues, with sharing the screen. Hold on.

Hey Ryan, If I put the URL in the chat for our slides, could you share your screen?

(Ryan Korstange)

Yep, I'm happy to do that.

(Effua Ampadu)

Great, thank you so much.

(Deborah Chisom)

Did you send it to him?

(Effua Ampadu)

Yes. It's right here. Did you get it?

(Ryan Korstange)

Yep, I just got it.

(Effua Ampadu)

Okay. Great.

Thank you, everybody, so much for your patience. There we go!

(Ryan Korstange)

All right, just let me know when to advance, and move forward - back, I'll follow you.

(Effua Ampadu)

Okay great. Uh, well we have already introduced ourselves, so you can go ahead and go to the next slide. Is that okay, Dr. Chisom?

(Deborah Chisom)

Yeah, that's fine.

(Effua Ampadu)

Okay.

(Deborah Chisom)

Okay, so we have, uh, the TSU HBCU affordable learning solutions. And, the Tennessee State University, we are the national hub, and what we do at Tennessee State University, we have -- we coordinate the HBCU OER training, the HBCU OER faculty-student survey, uh, coordination of HBCU OER webinars, coordination of HBCU OER library resources, the HBCU OER pilots, and coordination of HBCU OER cultural collection, in partnership with Merlot. Next slide.

Did you know at Tennessee State University, we have 33 OER pilot faculty members in 14 departments. We have two faculty members per department, 17 OER campus webinars for the 2021 year. Next slide.

Our impact at Tennessee State University, uh, saving -- a student savings of eighty-one thousand dollars this past uh fall semester, with just 33 faculty members using the free OER materials. And so, now I'm gonna pass it over to my colleague, Dr. Ampadu.

(Effua Ampadu)

Thank you so much, Dr. Chisom. Uh, my name is Dr. Ampadu. I help with the coordination of HBCU OER webinars, OER surveys, the academic communities, and the faculty outreach.

Next.

Um, one way that we are able to outreach to our faculty members, is by utilizing a platform called TSUExcel4Ed, this amazing platform is where you can find OER materials, find -- showcase for faculty members, so a faculty member is doing an amazing or a great job, we love to showcase their work and what they're doing inside their classroom. We also have the communities, where they come together -- so of your agriculture community, or if you're the biology community, or ed... education community, in whatever discipline that you're in you're able to find your own community and find the strategies and resources that you need for OER.

We also have the accessibility, um, for our faculty and students. And OER resources that helps our faculty members, for strategies, and tips, and resources, for their classroom. And then, of course, we have the HBCU, um, pilot -- and which -- which is the pilot study that we run every semester. Next slide.

Thank you. So, the overall survey that we took this last fall for 2021, it showed that our faculty response and -- our in -- their recommendation, um, that there is a need for training on the use of creative commons licenses, there is a need to increase the cultural collections, there is a need for the updated discipline related to OER materials, and there is a need for faculty training regarding the creations of OER materials. So, all these things we took in consideration, and we went ahead and came up with webinars. So, please, click on the next slide.

And these amazing webinars we did every Tuesday, um, or every other Tuesday depending on the weekend -- depending on the week -- um, at 3:30, and we had just a plethora of just information to help fill the gap, um, that we feel like our faculty members had. As well as, we make sure we asked them what type of webinars are you guys interested in, to make sure that we are feeding the OER hunger. Next slide, please.

And now, I will pass it over to the amazing Doctor O'Keefe Hassell.

(Robert Hassell)

Thank you Dr. Ampadu. It is such an exciting moment in the life of Tennessee State University and OER here, in the land of golden sunshine. And, I'm excited to present to you today about the efforts we're taking to advance the knowledge and the benefit of OER to the student population here on our campus. Next slide, please.

We decided that when we implemented OER, that we wanted to get students and get students engaged. So, we implemented a feedback survey from the students, to see their insight and their awareness about OER, uh, and its use. And based on the feedback from the 2021 survey, we determined that there was a need for OER awareness and benefits. There was a need for hands-on workshops, that means us going actually inside of the classrooms, inside of the library, partnering with deans, uh professors, and supports staff -- academic support staff across campus. To get OER into the classroom and create access points. The need for culturally related materials, and then lastly the need for more information about OER and actual OER artifacts in their specific disciplines. Next slide, please.

We had so much success here in our first year and one of the impactful HBCU project milestones that we accomplished, is that we were able to establish an Open Education Resource student success coach here at TSU and subsequently, uh, in continuation of that same celebration, we also established an OER bibliography of TSU current student, staffs, and alumni. Uh, I'm so excited, because we get to introduce to you part of our cultural collections. And before we get started, I want to give you, uh, insight to our culture collections program, of which it helps our institution, as well as others, meet the complex challenges of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities and social science materials for future generations, by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong useful life of collections in academic research and instruction, and support institutional resilience at Tennessee State University, and beyond.

We want to present to you highlights of our cultural collection. And the first person we want to bring to our notice is one of our distinguished alumni, our eighth president of Tennessee State University, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover. She is the eighth president of our institution and the first woman president. She is the international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. incorporated.

(Effua Ampadu)

Next slide.

Yes, give it up for the amazing Dr. Glenda Glover.

Um, next if you go ahead and click on the slide. We also have, um, coach Ed Temple. Ed Temple was the women's track and field coach. Ed Temple, he led Tennessee State University's track and field program for 44 years, and out of that time that he did that, he was able to produce 43 Olympians during his tenure at Tennessee State University.

Who - also, the the upcoming, new coach, today, which is Chandra Cheeseborough, um, is the new head coach, who took his spot. So, way to go, coach Ed Temple. Next.

(Robert Hassell)

Next, we have the amazing, incomparable, Oprah Winfrey. She is an American talk show host, television producer, actress, author, and philanthropist. She is best known in culture for the Oprah Winfrey show, which was the highest-rated television program in history for a national syndication for over 25 years. How about that for a phenomenal Tennessee State University alumni?

(Effua Ampadu)

Yes. Everybody loves Oprah.

And of course, last but not least, everybody pick up their phones. If you pick up your phone and look at it, and you see that little bar up top, that tells you -- um, your, that tells you your mobile data? This guy created the mobile data, you guys. You gotta be so excited, so appreciative of the education he was able to get from Tennessee State University. And he was also the first African-American to be hired by AT&T.

(Deborah Chisom)

Very good.

And that concludes our part of our presentation.

I'm not sure about Dr. Melton. I don't know if she's still on her other webinar, or if she's having problems getting in. So, are there any questions?

(Ryan Korstange)

Yeah, I think Dr. Melton is having some problems getting in and we're working on, uh, resolving those with her right now. Uh, the one question I have is uh, if - if you might, you talked about some student perceptions about OER. I wonder if you might, uh, just kind of unpack that a little bit more? What are students looking for, that you found with OER? What are the values that they find in OER?

Can you talk more about - sort of - what they -- what they -- think about these resources that you guys are providing for them?

(Deborah Chisom)

You're on mute, Dr. Hassell.

(Effua Ampadu)

You're still on mute Dr. Hassell.

(Robert Hassell)

Oh, am I -- am I?

Okay, I'm back (laughing).

So, uh, students -- everything we do with OER, uh, regarding the students is to make sure that we enhance their learning experience, inside and outside of the classroom. And one of the things we understood, even with being in the midst of a pandemic and in our place of emerging, is that student engagement is one of those uphill - downhill types of things. So, when we talked about using OER, we wanted to make sure that we were giving them the resources that would reinforce the skills that they were learning in the classrooms, and also to support, uh, them as they engage, uh, their content by allowing them to take additional resources and infuse that into the learning process. We use applications such as YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, and all of these help fill in the gaps to provide a network of interconnectivity where students can pull knowledge from all types of places simultaneously. It helps students also, fill in what we would call the blank spaces instructionally, by allowing the student to access mediums that actually hold their attention. Because OER comes in all forms, shapes, and sizes, and in its own devices and programs that they use every day. In addition to that, it also provides an opportunity for collaborative group work. Uh, collaborating with small groups gives the students, particularly with OER, a welcome break from doing solo book work, and they can benefit from each other's perspectives and have the ability to verbalize their ideas. Uh, and that's pretty much, uh, how we cover the vast basis of implementing students. And, you would be surprised that the engagement level rises when you actually create that inter-generational bridge, because sometimes they - students - think, oh, if you're sort of that older generation, sort of those boomers, that you don't use technology but it's so refreshing that we build that intergenerational inter-academic bridge, uh, between the disciplines, to let them know that uh what they're learning is real, relevant, and relatable.

(Deborah Chisom)

Very good.

And Dr. Ampadu, would you like to share about our hubs and our affiliates?

(Efffua Ampadu)

Oh yes. Our hubs and our affiliates are amazing. You absolutely gotta love them, Um, they're so full of, full of energy and always ready to go. We have, um, hubs -- so our hubs are Central State, Edward Waters, we have Morehouse, um Southern University of Shreveport, and Arkansas Baptist College, who are over all the HBCU libraries. Um, one of them -- so one of the amazing facts, like about our hubs, um, so let's say, um, Southern University of Shreveport. Their entire undergrad, the first two years, it's totally OER. And so, when it comes to your psychology, your math, any type of labs, all those are already curated and ready for the faculty members. So, as soon as the semester starts, there's no waiting for -- oh I gotta go buy the textbook, and I gotta order for amazon, let me see when the shipping is going to be here. Um, they have their stuff readily available, um, for their faculty and students as well. We also have, outside the six hubs, we have other, um, other affiliates.

So, every hub is responsible for other affiliates. So, let's say Morehouse College, they are affiliated and responsible for Clafin, Clark Atlanta, Livingstone, and Fort Valley State University. Some of our own hubs with Tennessee State, we have Fisk, Tougaloo, we have Lane College. So, we have a plethora of different hubs all around the United States, we all work together. Um, definitely with the webinars that I was just talking about. Um, we weren't just getting feedback just from Tennessee State University, we was getting feedback from all the hubs, everywhere. So, if Lawson College had a question or Johnson C. Smith, you know, was -- had issues with this, or with that, or of Lane College, or whoever, we all came together and make sure we were all learning together, and making sure we were all pushing forward. So, um, so, we're doing so much better as HBCUs because, one key point that we always try to follow is that we do not compete against each other, we complete each other.

(Deborah Chisom)

Absolutely. Absolutely, and I see Dr. Robbie Melton. Dr. Melton?

(Robbie Melton)

Good afternoon all, and forgive my lateness. I was presenting at an International Open Education conference and we ran a little behind. And then, I also want to give a shout-out to Julie, who was very cool in getting me into this section, because I had my computer, um, they had to drop down a broadcasting app and it wouldn't let me access. However, life is good everyone and welcome to Tennessee State, Open Education, Affordable Learning Solution, where on behalf of the HBCUs, we try to advocate for affordable learning solution, as well as the state of Tennessee. We have so much to share as well as recent research, in terms of faculty and student surveys. And, of course, if my team has not shared, we have a cultural collection for ...

(Deborah Chisom)

We did already.

(Robbie Melton)

Did you also share with them how we were able, this morning, to start a cultural collection for the Ukraine?

(Deborah Chisom)

No, we did -- we forgot about that part.

(Robbie Melton)

Well, let me share with you the beauty of Open Education Resources. Again, it's open to the world. As you all know, um, the Ukraine is in the peak of a war. Think about it everyone, their schools, their libraries, think of all of their resources. And to capture so they don't lose it, today this morning, on behalf of MIT and other HBCU colleagues from around the nation, we got together this morning and created a cultural collection for the Ukraine. Think about it, think about it, everyone. Together we got together, online and we started deep diving into their research, pulling their school's history in their, um, country history, and we were able to curate this morning a cultural collection, so they would not lose their history. Is that not amazing?

That's Open Education Resources. So, we come to you on behalf of Tennessee State University, and the Historically Black Colleges and University, and the state of Tennessee, to promote, to advocate for all of us to use Open Education Resources, anytime, anywhere in the world, any device. As long as you can hook up to the internet, even as they would say in Malawi Africa, even for one hour, to download rich materials that can transform education.

And do we have questions from the audience in terms of our collection? And were you able to share with them our personal portal for Tennessee State University, and the courses that we have, that we are advocating? In fact, on Friday, you will hear from our Chemistry Department using open education resources across their General Chemistry. Also, we have 33 faculty members at Tennessee State University piloting, from history, education business, computer science, and uh - uh - Dr. Ampadu, were you able to share the, um, 31 areas, and uh ...

 (Effua Ampadu)

Yeah. Yes, ma'am, we were definitely able to share um the faculty members who, um, the faculty members, uh, and how many that that we have. But definitely, we have the agriculture department, education, we have called a respiratory, we have health and information management type programs - inside um, in sciences, geography, we have social work, history, psychology. So, definitely all across the board. We have the art department. We were able to bring everybody together to our OER family so we can build and move forward as one.

(Robbie Melton)

So, when we provide a workshop, we always take the time to give you resources. Not only resources, we want to get you into the action right now. So, uh, I'm not very, um, skilled in using WebEx, so are we able to put in the chat the Merlot URL?

(Effua Ampadu)

It's in there.

 (Robbie Melton)

Very good. I would like the attendees that are part of this webinar to get to work. So, what I would like for you to do is to click on that link, which will take you to merlot.org. And in the search engine, we would like for you to put in your discipline, right now. And we would like for you to see, right now, if you can find resources in your teaching and learning areas. So we're going to give you a few minutes and I don't know if we can share a screen. Dr. Ampadu?

(Effua Ampadu)

Yeah.

(Robbie Melton)

You can see we are little zoomers over here.

(Effua Ampadu)

Yeah, zoomers (laughing). Last time it knocked out my computer when I tried to share, Dr. Melton. Um, hopefully, it won't this time though.

(Robbie Melton)

So, I'm gonna ask Ryan. Uh, Ryan, as a co-host, are you able to share a URL of Merlot?

(Ryan Korstange)

Yep. I just pulled it up. Let me share it.

(Robbie Melton)

Very good. Because I'm going to walk you through it.

And ladies and gentlemen, I'm demonstrating this because I want you to leave today knowing that you have this wealth of resources to share not only among your colleagues, but I want you to be able to share with your family and friends. Remember this site is available 24 hours, seven days a week, anytime, anyplace, on any machine. So, as you all are logging in you see the search bar, the smart search. Again, I would like for you to type in your discipline, or your research area, your teaching area. So, Ryan, we're gonna let, um, you be the hostess of this, and we'll have you to type in your research area. And again, and all right, life is good.

Um, Ryan typed in, um, is it First-Year Experience? So, let me share with you the beauty of this portal. Again, you see the Merlot collection. So, you see that you have 78 results regarding this. So, if you look on the left. If you would scroll down, you can filter by discipline, you can filter by materials, okay, and a four -- because i can hardly see i'm going to let...

(Effua Ampadu)

Yes ma'am, I you. You can also filter by audience, which is great. So, just in case you are, um, you are want to teach grad school or undergrad or high school or middle school or just professional, though they have those options there for you. And then, it has the other platforms that it is available on. So, you have android or apple. And then, of course, the other filters and - which if you look, um, the first one says, "has a peer review," and that's one wonderful thing about Merlot is it has peer reviews. So, you're not just you know clicking on any type of resource that you can get off the internet, we actually have a peer review team that looks at the resource and says, hey this will actually be great for, uh -- this will actually be great, it has passed, it it is academia, um, it is academia ready. Um, so you're not just gonna find anything in Merlot, um, without it being peer reviewed, um, by our team. If you can go ahead and scroll down to the bottom of the screen, Ryan. Thank you. So, I'll -- keep on scrolling, just go all the way down to the bottom. Oh, you actually don't have that there. Um, okay well, go ahead and scroll back up to the top.

So, one thing also that is amazing about Merlot, if you cannot find it in Merlot, it has other academic libraries available to you, as well. So you can click on other libraries. Thank you. And then, if you click on the left-hand side, where it says, "filter by," it has a little -- yes sir. Those are all the libraries that are in Merlot, that you are able to find. So, if you need like Kaplan, or anything like that -- all MIT, all these amazing libraries, you can click on and they're already available and curated for you. And then, of course you have the world wide web. So, if you go ahead and click out of that box, and then click on the world wide web, they also have that available to you, as well.

So, let's not just do, uh, first-year experience -- that's -- how about how, about another one?

(Robbie Melton)

I'm gonna just try something out of my area, DNA. I'm just going to throw out DNA.

(Effua Ampadu)

Okay, cool. Let's try DNA. Oh, look at that. We have 758 materials in there for you guys, already ready and curated. So, you don't have to do anything. Um, do not don't have to do anything. We have presentations. We have syllabi's. If you scroll down and look to the side, on the left-hand side, where it says, "filter by." Uh, we have animation, automation, case studies, collections, so there's a lot of things in here. Well - DNA, good pick Dr. Melton. Um, the groups they have tests and quizzes. Um, hold on. So, let's - let's actually click on one.

(Robbie Melton)

Yeah, how about a book? Because a lot of times I, I can understand -- but what about full books? Um, can you find, um, free, um, e-textbooks?

(Effua Ampadu)

Yes, definitely. You can find free e-textbooks in Merlot, definitely. Um, actually Ryan, if you scroll up, I thought I seen one. Um, keep on scrolling. Actually okay, no go down. I swear I thought I'd see one that was purple, that, that jumped out at me. Keep on scrolling down. Well actually, there's there's a plethora of textbooks just right here. But, as you can see it's not just reviewed, um, by your peers, it's also reviewed by the editors, as well. Um, so if you even even click on the one in the middle, what that says says help "me understand genetics." Yes sir. So, you can see on the right-hand side where it says "editor review," it gives it a a three and a half, the user gives it also three and a half. The people who have bookmarked this actual collections, so people can actually bookmark and say, oh my gosh I love this book, um, let me bookmark it and people keep it with my collection. So, if I want students to be able to click on it later on, or if I want to utilize some of the chapters, then I can, I can go ahead and put in my bookmark and use it for my materials later on. You can also create a course e-portfolio in Merlot, which is amazing, as well. Where, let's say if you want to create a whole course, you could say okay well, the first week we'll read this book, so you'll pick this link right here with the description and the students will know what the assignments what you want them to do and they know how to move forward, um, just with this OER, free material. So, it's very easy and user-friendly. Also, if you have a problem with the link, uh, once you do click on it, you can always report it. It's on the right-hand side, it says "broken --report broken link, "or if it says "report if it's inappropriate." But usually, you don't have those problems here.

(Robbie Melton)

So, so, Dr. Ampadu, uh, I had shared with the audience this morning that we created a cultural collection on behalf of the Ukrainian people. Can you type in ukraine in the search box?

(Effua Ampadu)

Definitely. We have 60 -- you are -- we have 60 materials in there, just from this morning. And we definitely had at least 150 URLs that was submitted to us. So, we are definitely on the move and making sure we're putting everything inside there. But look at that amazing collection already, and already ready. Um, they're definitely going through a lot and one thing they do want to remember is their history and how -- and let everybody else know how they're a history of great people, and that, you know -- and it helps us to know who they are so we don't feel like they're in this fight alone, but we don't want them to feel like they're in this fight alone, we're in this together.

(Robbie Melton)

And very good. And at this time, if you would click on "communities" up at the top? And again, let me remind the audience we're talking about free, f-r-e-e, accessible materials, available all over the world, and over 76 different languages. Please know the people in Ukraine, as well as Haiti and other places, they need this. So, I always like to share with the audience, my journey with OER, and why I am so passionate. In 2005, I had the opportunity of going to Ethiopia. I was there on, on behalf of the United States ambassador, blah blah blah blah blah. Forget all of that. I had the opportunity to go to one of their five universities. Ladies and gentlemen, if you could hear my voice, I said university. At the university, in one particular class, going over some history, I'm here to share with you the book, the book, of choice was 1955. 1955. The book was older than some of you out in the audience. And that was their history textbook, I want you all to understand the impact of open education resources. I sat there and said, if they're using books from 1955, my gosh, they're going to be in shock to find out the world has changed. And that was 2005. On behalf of technology, we traveled two hours to an internet cafe. Why an internet cafe? Because they had better network, to download. We only had one hour. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of open education resources, in that one hour I was able, and I take credit, to transform that particular classroom from 1952 to 2005, within an hour, due to you all, you, sitting right there, believe that education should be open and free to all. I share that as Dr. Ampadu shared with you, we have already curated for you all, on behalf of Tennessee State University, and the Historically Black Colleges and University, the following communities. And I'll let you showcase the academic communities.

Oh, Ryan has it. Okay, Ryan, if you would click academic uh disciplines please? (laughing). Usually is uh. Dr. Ampadu, so, sorry Ryan.

You will see, we have everything ready for you, from Ag to biology, to business, chemistry, communication, computer science, criminal justice, engineering, English, education -- come on Ryan, now you got to move this baby fast. History, uh, information technology, math, music, physic, on and on and on -- that's the way we do it -- on and on and on. And if you would go all the way back to ag. Click on it. And when I say, we have curations for you, in your area, here is just a flavor of your ag portal. You see we have materials coming in, we have new members, showcase, journals. In other words, we try to work as a global community in sharing open education materials. You all should be impressed.

And Ryan, if you would click back up under communities, and if you would go to the "academic support." Oftentimes, we forget our support services our, student affair. Not us. Here we have your faculty development, your ICT literacy, on and on. Uh, mobile learning. So, we try to bring together, to this site, not just the Merlot, but all of OER. So, when you see the -- and there's now hundreds of portals, regarding open education resources -- remember the key, we share. We don't try to outdo each other, we share. So, at this time let's take some questions from the audience.

Oh, and Ryan, we're gonna have you to do one more thing. We're going to take you to our cultural collection, which if you would go to hbcuals[.org].

And again, on behalf of the HBCUs, we have over 3000 free e-textbook. And you can go ahead and scroll down. We try to showcase our faculty and others using affordable learning solution. And Ryan, if you would be so kind to click on, if you go down just a little bit more, and you'll see -- right there our cultural collection. If you would go up, and click on, right -- there, you go. And, ladies and gentlemen, I am just so pleased to share with you, that on behalf of underserved population, to represent diversity in open education resources, we have the first, and only right now, HBCU cultural collection. And, if you would scroll down just a little bit more, you will see where we address diversity, inclusion, uh, our HBCU history. As well as, if you scroll a little bit more, on behalf of the partnership with the national museum of African American history and culture -- wow, we have, right here, up in front, all of the wealth of open education resources pertaining to Black, Black Americans, Aricana studies, and it's all right here. Free at hand.

And again, you all should just be amazed. But again, we don't stop there. I have one more site before we closeout. And, Ryan, if you would please go to www skills - with an "s," commons with an "s" -- no spaces, is skillscommons.org. On behalf of workforce training and careers. Now this one, you will go, why didn't you share this before? This is your workforce open education training site. So Ryan, we're going to have you to put in "nursing." And guess what, on behalf of all of your careers, we have curated for you, for your careers and workforce. If you look to the left you'll see, we keep you updated in terms of what's happening in the industry of nursing. And, if you scroll down this is where you want to go, why didn't you tell us, what didn't you tell us. Because, we have materials -- look at the nursing syllabi. Over 166. We have presentation, publications, simulation, animation. How about hybrid courses? On-- online courses, fully online courses that you can download. And, using the creative commons license, you can remix, you can recreate. You can use a little of this, and a little of that. And just to share with you, Ryan, if you would scroll back up? And we're going to just test this out. We're going to click on the first one, "transition to nursing practice course." Everyone, there you see it. It's already ready for you. If you just want the syllabi, life is good. You want the whole course? Life is good. And again, on behalf of all of us, working together, I'm here to share with you, we are able to transform education so that it is affordable and accessible to all. So again, we thank you.

And I know Dr. Hassell shared we are also working on an initiative with our students. Did you share that, um Dr. Hassell.

(Robert Hassell)

Yes ma'am. We did, we did.

(Robbie Melton)

Okay, so where are those questions? We have a couple of minutes. And let's ...

(Ryan Korstange)

There's a question in the chat. Um, it's. how do institutions become a member of the Merlot community? Uh, I saw where Motlow Community College is an academic partner.

(Robbie Melton)

Yes. Okay, you're going to love this. Did we not say, "free"? Did we not say, "share"? It's no cost to you at all. No cost. And as you join as a member, you get additional benefits. You get weekly, uh, newsletters about, um, OER materials coming into your area. We have, um, webinars that you can take, and did I say, "free"? Free. We also have faculty training, student training. So again, just join because the purpose is for us to share.

(Effua Ampadu)

Yes, go straight to the Merlot website and in the right-hand corner at the top, just click "sign up," and you'll get an email within five minutes.

(Robbie Melton)

And something that you might not know, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the UT System, have been part of the Merlot initiative since 1980. So, when you go into our portal, you might see some of your colleagues, from long time ago, where they have put in, uploaded materials, as well as presented in terms of open education resources.

Other questions?

Oh, I can read minds. Someone said, "what about K-12"?

Yes. You will find upper-level materials, in terms of juniors and seniors in high school. But that's why we have the beauty of other OER organization. Like, OER commons, where they, um, center in on the K-12. And yes there's a lot of overlap. But again, everyone is free. So, you try a little Merlot, you try a little OER commons. And of course, you have SPARC and other organization. By the way, there are over 200 OER national organization, as well as, the open education board that promotes all in terms of access to education.

Oh, I saw that question, can you download? Yes, um the information will fit to any screen.

Oh yes, I did say it was free, yes.

Other questions, because we're just at that time.

If not, I would like to personally, personally, thank the Tennessee Higher Ed Commission. I would like to give a shout out to Ryan and Julie for promoting open education resources. Many states are trying to move the needle, you all have. And I know awareness and even this whole week of open education resources, you would think, you would be bombarded. We are here for the long haul with you. This is something that all students, not just students of color, but all students must have access. So, I don't want you all to give up. I want you all to know that we will just keep, from day to day, pushing and advocating for open education resources.

(Effua Ampadu)

And thank you Ryan, so much, for being a part of the team today, and sharing your screen. You did absolutely an amazing job.

(Ryan Korstange)

You know, I’m happy to pitch in where I can.

(Effua Ampadu)

We all we owe you lunch.

(Robbie Melton)

Robbie, Robbie owes you lunch. And again, um on behalf of your formal title for the Tennessee Higher Ed, you are doing a fantastic job.

(Ryan Korstange)

I appreciate you all, uh, presenting today. It was really a window into what all is possible with open educational resources and as just a really good -- it's a really good reminder that there is tons of stuff out there and that it's not hard to get started. So, I appreciate that perspective, and then focusing on the students and the value that they find in these materials is also really important. So, really appreciate it, and go ahead ...

(Robbie Melton)

Ryan, and would you share with the um audience again your formal title, please?

(Ryan Korstange)

Yeah. I'm the director of academic affairs, and I manage our textbook affordability task force and other textbook affordable efforts in the state.

(Robbie Melton)

Yes, thank you. See, when you work with OER, we roll up our sleeves and it's Ryan and Robbie, but Ii just want to respect your title, and what you do.

(Ryan Korstange)

Yeah. Thank you. Well, thank you all, this has been a a good hour, and a lot to think about going forward from here. I really appreciate your time.

(Robbie Melton)

Thank you, Life is good. Thank you. And then, shout out to Jeffery Norfleet, I trained him well.