INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
About the program

The OpenStax Institutional Partner Program at Rice University is designed to provide you with guidance to greatly increase the use of open educational resources on your campus through a structured strategic plan and community of peers.

This program is for institutions ready to make an impact on campus by dedicating the necessary time and resources to motivate faculty and utilize OER to drive student success, retention, and completion.

Cost

$20,000 Provided for free thanks to a generous grant funded by the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation.

What you’ll be doing

First 12 months in the program:

Over the summer: Create a customized strategic plan to increase OER at your institution using a template and proven strategies from OpenStax. OpenStax provides support and coaching. Once the program is approved, you will begin implementing immediately, with the summer months being a busy time during the program.

During the academic year: You will implement a minimum of eight direct tactics from your strategic plan. Single direct tactics examples include hosting a series of four or more workshops, offering OER grants, presenting at faculty convocation, and holding a minimum of 10 one-on-one meetings with faculty to discuss adoption. After each direct tactic, you’ll continue to connect with each faculty member who expressed interest or participated in your events to encourage adoption. The majority of work in the fall is hosting events and running programs, while the majority of work in the spring is following up with faculty individually to encourage pilots or adoptions.

Every month: You’ll meet with the institutions in the cohort to discuss what’s working and what’s not working and to get advice and support from one another.

Throughout year one: You’ll track all faculty interest and adoption of OER materials within your strategic plan. A few times during the program, you’ll summarize progress for benchmarking.

Year two and beyond:

• Act as a mentor on the Partner Program email listserv to other colleges and universities as they go through the program
• Meet quarterly with up to 200 Institutional Partner colleges and universities to discuss what’s working and what’s not working and to get advice and support from one another
• Continue to regularly track OER adoptions and interest at your institution and provide adoption metrics to OER providers.
What you’ll get

First 12 months in the program:

• Individualized consulting on your OER effort and strategies
• Development of a customized strategic plan to increase the use of OER at your institution
• A community of support through a “cohort” of other institutions who join the program during the same period
• Monthly calls with all other institutions in the program to celebrate wins, discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support and guidance
• Immediate access to other partner institutions via a Listserv
• Up to 10 hours of dedicated tech support for using, editing, and adding content to the OpenStax CNX repository, including editing and remixing OpenStax book content
• Monthly reports from OpenStax listing faculty at your institution who have expressed an interest in, or are using, an OpenStax textbook
• Up to three webinars per year on OpenStax, OER, and/or Rice University’s role in OER for your institution
• Press release template to generate publicity for your institution
• Inclusion on the OpenStax website and presentations as a partner school
• At least one campus visit by a Rice University OpenStax representative*

After first 12 months in the program:

• Individualized consulting on your OER effort and strategies
• Quarterly calls with 200+ other institutions in the program to celebrate wins, discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support and guidance
• Continual participation in Listserv discussions
• Monthly reports from OpenStax listing faculty at your institution who have expressed an interest in, or are using, an OpenStax textbook
• Up to three webinars per year on OpenStax, OER, and/or Rice University’s role in OER for your institution
• Inclusion on the OpenStax website and presentations as a partner school
• Campus visits as requested*

*Optional. Travel fees paid for by the institution.
Requirements

- The institution’s OER leader or co-leaders must have a collective minimum of 10 hours release time per week starting in June of the program year for tasks associated with the program
- A minimum of one professor using an OpenStax book at your campus
- At least one of the institution’s OER leaders must attend the online kick-off meeting
- Commit to the activities listed as part of the first year of the partnership program
- Have one institutional representative participate in at least 75% of the monthly calls. This should be the same person each month (with one alternate)
- Meet all program deadlines and reporting requirements
- Work with an OpenStax representative to develop a strategic plan to increase use of OER at your institution
- Be willing and able to disseminate information about OER at your institution
- Regularly track OER adoptions and interest, and update the program facilitator on the number of faculty and students using OER as well as general OER feedback and progress
- Give permission to Rice University’s OpenStax to feature your logo as a partner or affiliate during public presentations, in news releases and the OpenStax website.
- Demonstrate regular effort to increase the number of OER and/or students using OER materials at your institution. This includes demonstrating the ability to sustain an OER effort after the first year of the program

Big results

Last year, institutions in the program, on average, increased OER use on their campus by 161%, resulting in nearly $17.4 million in projected student savings this year. And savings continue to increase – the institutional partner schools in the 2016-2017 program saw a 150% increase in students impacted by OER this year, resulting in an additional 50,000 students with an additional savings of $4.9 million.

Teaming up with the other OpenStax Institutional Partner schools provided a sense of community as we navigated launching OER initiatives at our own campuses. Learning about other schools’ successes and frustrations each month was inspiring. I learned so many new techniques and innovative ideas that I could then apply at my own campus. I loved the structure of this program. It’s inspiring to see how many students are impacted by OER adoption – the numbers really add up quickly.

Erin Davis, Distance Education Library Services Coordinator at Utah State University
Program participants

- Alamo Colleges
- Arkansas State University
- Auburn University
- BCcampus
- California State University, Fullerton
- Central New Mexico Community College
- College of the Canyons
- College of Lake County
- De Anza College
- Florida International University
- Grand Rapids Community College
- Grossmont College
- Houston Community College
- Lansing Community College
- Louisiana’s Community & Technical College System
- Maricopa Community Colleges
- Northern Essex Community College
- The Ohio State University
- Palomar College
- Pasadena City College
- Saddleback College
- Salt Lake Community College
- San Diego City College
- San Jacinto College
- Santa Monica College
- Sinclair College
- South Florida State College
- The State University of New York
- Tarrant County College
- Thomas Nelson Community College
- Tulsa Community College
- UMass Amherst
- The University of Arizona
- University of Connecticut
- University of Idaho
- The University of Georgia
- University of Hartford
- The University of Kansas
- University of Missouri System
- The University of Oklahoma
- University System of Georgia
- The University of Texas at San Antonio
- Utah State University
- Virginia Tech
- Washington State University
- William Rainey Harper College
Nicole Finkbeiner, Director of Institutional Relations

After five years of running the Institutional Partnership Program, Nicole has become a leading expert in increasing the use of open educational resources in higher education. In addition to personally coaching the institutions in the program, Nicole speaks at colleges and universities across the country about a variety of topics related to OER.

For questions and speaking requests, contact Nicole at nicolef@rice.edu.

For more information about the program, visit openstax.org/institutional-partnership