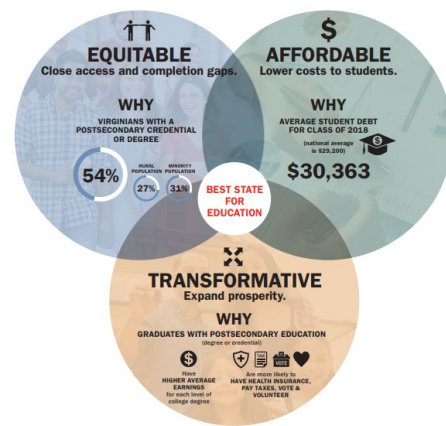


Open Education in Virginia: Equitable, Affordable and Transformative

Presentation to SCHEV Academic Affairs Committee
September 13, 2021

Jimmy Ghaphery
Chair, SCHEV Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC)
Associate Dean, Scholarly Communications and Publishing, VCU Libraries

Beverly A. Rebar, J.D.
Senior Associate for Academic and Legislative Affairs, SCHEV





What are Open Education and Open Educational Resources?

Open Education: “a pedagogy-driven movement and philosophy which reduces barriers to learning, enables learner agency, values transparency, gives credit to others for their contributions, and utilizes Public Domain markers or open licenses for creation, use, and sharing of open educational resources.” [Virginia Tech](#)

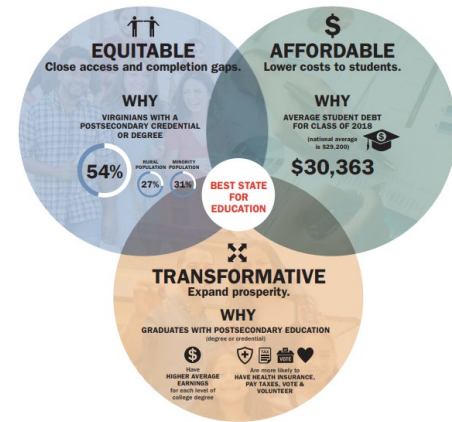
Open Educational Resources (OER):

“Teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions”

[UNESCO](#)

“OER Courses Mean No Textbook Purchase Required”

[Northern Virginia Community College](#)



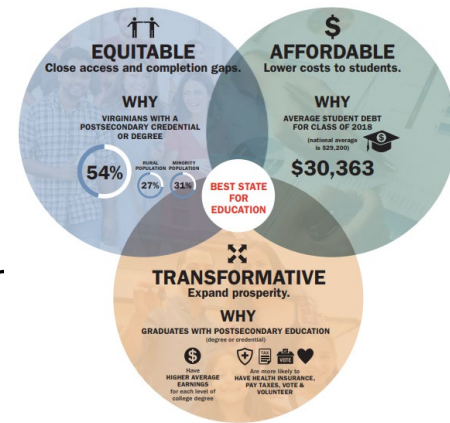


OER Advances Equity, Affordability, and Transformation

- Equitable day-one access for all students
- Student success
- Affordability
- Faculty freedom to tailor materials to the course and adapt over time

Evidence

- [Florida 2018 Student Textbook Survey](#) (21,000 students)
- [Georgia Peer Reviewed Study 2018](#) (22,000 undergrad student)
- [Ithaca 2018 Faculty Survey Key Findings](#) (11,000 faculty)
- [2019 peer reviewed metanalysis](#) (97 studies)
- [IIVA 2020 Student Survey](#) (650 students, 94% undergrad)





Students Express the Negative Effect of Textbook Prices

- “I decided not to purchase some required books due to cost” UVA student
- “I'm looking at at least \$300 and I won't have it till Feb--classes start Jan 13” Senior, English, VCU
- “Miss early assignments in the semester as I waited for [cheaper] texts to be shipped in” Senior, History, VCU
- “I had to buy a lot of access codes just to do homework” UVA Student
- “Textbooks are so expensive that at this point I go to *special sites*” Senior, Sociology, VCU



Students Express the Positive Effect of OER

“This textbook was extremely helpful. The reading material helped me with the lectures, which both in turn helped understanding the labs, and ultimately the projects (and **mastery quizzes**). The fact that it's online is also extremely helpful. I can search for terms easily this way. Overall, it played a significant, positive impact for me in this course.”

“Since it is digital, I turn it into an e-book on my laptop and was able to **have the book read to me as I worked on homework** and note taking. This helped me be able to read the book each week, as I learn better from having things read to me.”

“The table of contents were easy to use. The website was **easy to access and use**. This textbook really only contained relevant information, so there was nothing to sift or scroll through to successfully read/complete assignments.”

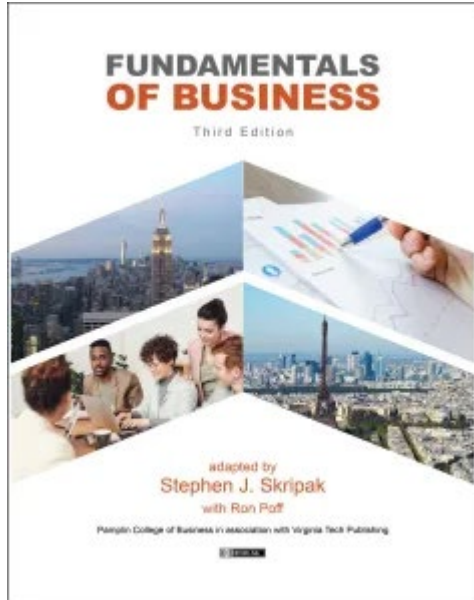
“I think the fact that it is **free and accessible online** is phenomenal! I also really enjoyed the search box function!”

“The code in the book is fantastic and the book overall **really helped me compared to just using a normal textbook**. Keep using the online one it helps every student a lot.”

Source: Virginia student evaluations of VIVA Grant OERs



OER as a Transformative Teaching Tool



Fundamentals of Business 3rd Edition

(Virginia Tech Publishing and Pamplin College of Business)

- Free online, print on demand \$8
- Interactive quizzing
- Accessibility features for students with disabilities
- Faculty-only test bank created by Virginia faculty

Local and Global Impact

- 6,300+ VT students
- \$630,000 VT student savings
- Adopted by over 100 institutions
- Downloaded over 1.5 million times
- Adapted into a Canadian edition

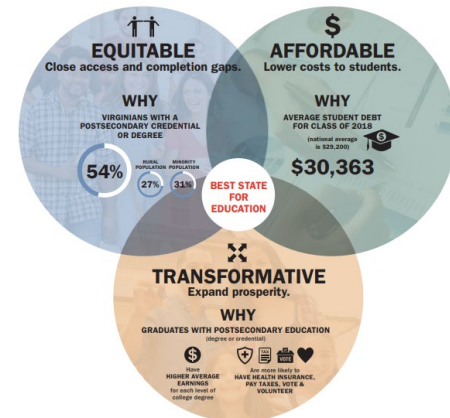


SCHEV Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC)

- make recommendations to Council regarding initiatives and policies that may facilitate the adoption of open educational resources by the public institutions
- organize events such as workshops and conferences to facilitate inter-institutional networking and the sharing of best practices

Membership: at least one representative from each public four-year institution, community college representatives designated by the Virginia Community College System, representatives from the Library Advisory Committee (LAC), and VIVA.

Charged: 2015



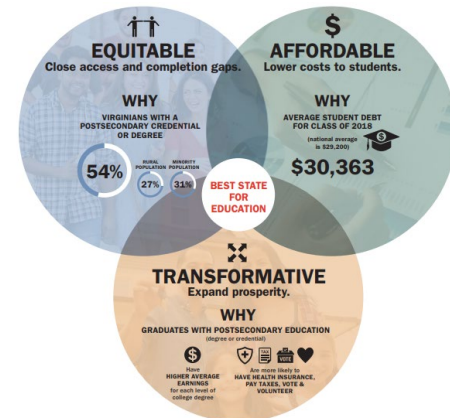


OVAC Assists Boards in Implementing Statutory Duties

§ 23.1-1308 (2019 amendments)

E. Create guidelines for the adoption and use of low-cost and no-cost open educational resources

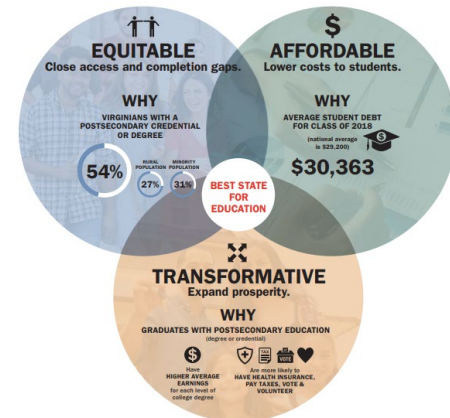
F. Identify no-cost course materials or low-cost course materials “conspicuously” in the online course catalog



OVAC Guidance for § 23.1-1308 (2019)

- Help institutions embrace §23.1-1308 within a framework of quality and sustainability
- Promote open educational resources and efforts to scale to full OER programs

www.schev.edu/docs/default-source/institution-section/GuidancePolicy/oerguidelines.pdf





OVAC 2020-21 Accomplishments (in a pandemic)

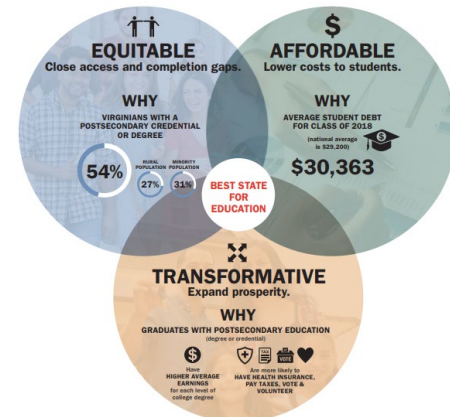
2020-21 Programmed 4 Webinars: total attendance of 440 with subsequent recordings. Most popular “Getting Started with OER” 215 attendees

Developed recommendations for how OER can advance Virginia Plan Goal One to Close Access and Completion Gaps

Formalized monthly meetings to include sharing campus best practices and challenges

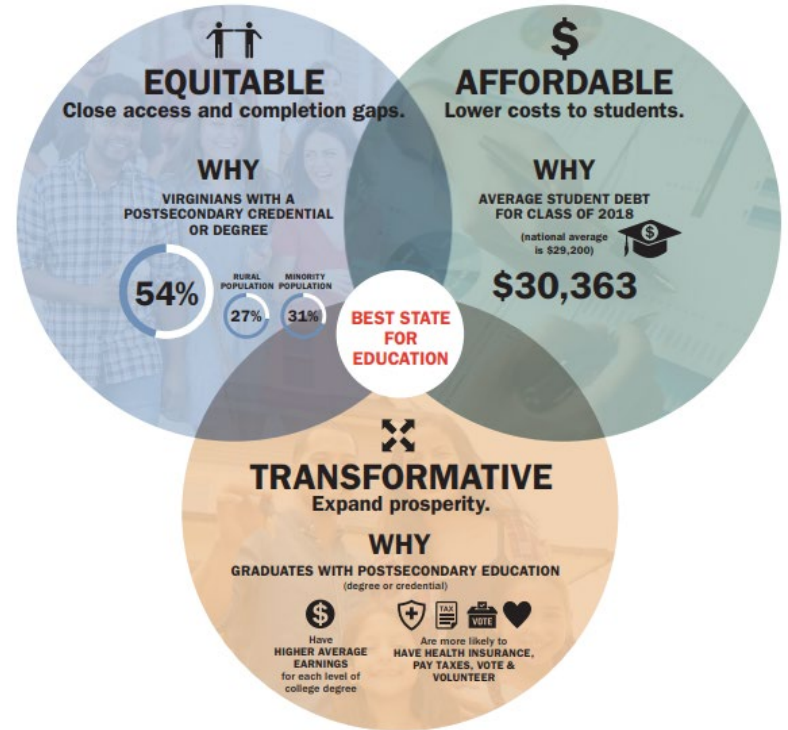
Created rolling chair model for sustainability

Anita Walz (Virginia Tech) and Dr. Julie Mersiowsky (Longwood) chairs 2020-21



How OVAC Can Support the Virginia Plan

- Build capacity and literacy
 - Programming, outreach, conferences, webinars
 - Share best practices with colleagues and SCHEV
- See where we are
 - Environmental scan of no and low cost labelling
 - Environmental scan of OER Guidelines
- Plot a course for the future
 - Reward faculty open education and open scholarship practices
 - Enable Open Access to Virginia Faculty Research as well as publications by or funded by the Commonwealth



Thank You

Jimmy Ghaphery

Chair, SCHEV Open Virginia Advisory Committee (OVAC)

Associate Dean, Scholarly Communications and Publishing, VCU Libraries

jghapher@vcu.edu

Beverly A. Rebar, J.D.

Senior Associate for Academic and Legislative Affairs, SCHEV

beverlyrebar@schev.edu

