STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR

FY23 COMPASS FUND PROJECT

PROJECT LEADER(S):	Christy Goodnight
PROJECT TITLE:	Zeroing Out Textbook Costs
DATE:	June 14, 2023

- *The boxes below expand as needed to accommodate your notes. You may also include/submit appendices or attachments, if needed.*
- *Email a copy of this completed form to the Compass Fund Review Board: CompassFund@stockton.edu.*
- ***This form must be completed and submitted to be considered for a second year of funding, if applicable, or any future Compass Fund support.***

Please provide a summary of the project and your experience.

The initial part of the pilot sent a team of faculty, staff, and a student from the Open Textbook and Educational Resources Committee (OTERC) to the AAC&U 2022-2023 Institute on Open Educational Resources. This Institute has/is providing Stockton with an opportunity to send a team of approximately five people to participate in a year-long online Institute focused on expanding the use and impact of OERs on our campus. We were accepted for participation and are guided in a collaborative campus effort to "...implement a campus transformation strategy to accelerate campus OER plans for large-scale engagement and adoption" (para 3).

The AAC&U Institute started in July 2022 and concludes with a capstone event in mid-July 2023. Institute faculty work with campus teams in a consultative manner. The team has been participating in the Institute and attending monthly webinars, planning meetings, and a full-day meeting in December 2022. The action plan which our team developed as part of the AAC&U Institute is attached. We have successfully increased the number of Z courses as we had hoped for, and many other metrics we listed in our action plan for AAC&U.

The project's primary goal will be to help faculty successfully apply for Z-subscripts for their course sections. In doing so, the OTERC will develop and provide professional development opportunities for participating faculty. To this end, we held three workshops and one pop-up session attracting faculty, staff, and students to learn more about the Z-subscript, what it means, and how to realign required course materials to those that are zero cost to qualify for the Z for faculty that wanted to apply for the Z-subscript. We also produced posters highlighting the Z-subscript for students registering for courses and purchased swag to distribute to faculty to continue getting the word out this coming fall.

We held three traditional-style workshops where we provided food and beverages for those in attendance to learn about the Z-subscripts and classes. The OTERC offered three workshops in person and via Zoom in a classroom setting. Our first workshop on October 14, 2022, was attended by six students, one staff member, and two faculty members. Our second workshop on December 1st, 2022, was attended by six students (staff and faculty were not counted on this occasion). Our third workshop was held on February 24, 2023, and was attended by four students, three staff members, and two faculty members. Our most successful was the pop-up workshop held on April 5th, 2023, attended by 46 students, two staff members, and two faculty members.

The direct impact of our success can be calculated by multiplying the average Stockton student textbook spending of $109 per course by the enrollment of those courses designated as OER courses or Z courses. According to our research, despite the best efforts of Stockton faculty to make course materials affordable, students are still struggling. Before our project, there were 10 Z-subscript qualifying courses for Fall 2022, the first semester the Z-subscript was offered. This project helped create more Z-subscript qualifying courses and directly addressed strategic enrollment, student success, diversity and inclusion, financial sustainability, and teaching and learning here in Stockton. 20 Z-subscript qualifying courses ran in Spring 2023, and 25 Z-subscript qualifying courses are running this coming Fall 2023. We anticipate even more Z-subscript courses to run in Spring 2024.

Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.

We planned to increase the number of Z-courses compared to Fall 2022. We successfully more than doubled the number of Z courses. This coming fall, 776 students will have the opportunity to take a Z-course, saving them approximately $84,584 total; if we use our average textbook cost found in our prior survey to be $109 per textbook. This is a considerable cost saving for our students and positively impacts enrollment for students who face financial barriers. We are continuing to collect impact data and qualitative data from students and faculty on their experiences with open textbooks. The OTERC will continue implementing the ideas the AAC&U group is developing in the coming years. The AAC&U group will present the results of their action plan in mid-July at the annual AAC&U online retreat for participants in the program. In addition, due to the success of the workshops on campus, we have doubled student participation in the OTERC. We also applied for and successfully received an Open Educational Resources Faculty Fellow for 2023-2024 with support from Dr. Patricia Thatcher, Associate Provost for the Library and Learning Commons.

Please explain and provide any University Relations & Marketing (URM) coverage of your project (social media posts, press releases, photos, videos, etc.) You may include these items as attachments or paste them at the bottom of this document.

URM did not cover any of our project events though we did have them make posters for us (see attachment). The CTLD provided event posting information via email to faculty and staff on their

webpage at https://stockton.edu/ctld/events.html. The Library provided social media coverage for our events.

Please list any follow-up actions (publications, presentation venues, etc.)
The AAC&U sub-group of OTERC will present at the AAC&U online retreat in mid-July 2023. The OTERC may present at the Fall Union workshops on campus and a poster for the Day of Scholarship 2024.

Are you recommending the continuation of this project? If so:
What are the following action steps you foresee or recommend?   **What are the expected budget requirements going forward?**   **Please identify the program, department, or division you should be working with to secure continuation of funding for your project.**   *[Note: continuation proposals must be approved and incorporated into the appropriate budget process. This report will not constitute a request for permanent funding.]*
We recommend that a second Z-subscript be developed to encompass low-cost courses after a threshold level for what defines "low-cost" is discussed with relevant campus entities such as Financial Aid, Registrar, etc. Establish a formal line of reporting for the Open Textbook and Educational Resources Committee to the Associate Provost of the Library, along with term limits, election, and make-up of committee members. We suggest that the Library be awarded additional funding to promote OER in conjunction with OTERC on an annual basis of a minimum of $5,000. Discuss with Faculty Senate the desire for a formal campus-wide task force on open education.

FINANCES: Based on your proposal, please outline below how the award has been spent.		
	Amount	**Notes/Comments**
Beginning Budget Balance as of:	$ 7,000.00	
Salary Expenditures		
● TES salaries (613340)	$ 0	
● Student worker (613345)	$ 0	

● Grad student worker (613350)	$ 0	
Total Salary Expenditures	$ 0	
Non-Salary Expenditures *(supplies, travel, etc.)*		
● AAC&U 2022-2023 Institute on Open Educational Resources	$ 5,000.00	(Paid and verified)
● Chartwells food for four workshops	$ 1,194.80	(Approximate, not verified)
● Marketing and promotional materials	$ TBD	(Some items are still in transit)
●	$	
●	$	
●	$	
●	$	
●	$	
Total Non-Salary Expenditures	$	We can get up to date numbers to you by the end of June 2023.
Total Salary + Non-Salary Expenditures	$	
Ending Budget Balance as of:	$	

If your project was approved for multiple fiscal years, please itemize future expenditures. IMPORTANT: Unused funds revert to the general Compass Fund at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Compass funds DO NOT rollover to the next FY.		
Item Description	**Expected Amount**	**Expected Timing for Payment**
Total		