

ONLINE CONSORTIUM OF OKLAHOMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



Highlights from 2020-21

Dedicated Staff Support

Membership dues from OCO institutions have continued to support one full-time director of online learning initiatives under the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE).

Networking and Resources

Since the April 2020 vote by the OCO Steering Committee, OCO has been a consortium member of WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technology (WCET), providing access to national-level experts and distance education resources.

Summer STEM Virtual Academy

In July 2020, OCO hosted a six-week, intensive workshop opportunity for up to two individuals from each member institution. The facilitators, Drs. Pam Northrup and Karen Rasmussen, were selected from a national search facilitated through WCET's members-only network. Twenty OCO institutions participated, including 57 faculty and staff from across the state.

Remote Proctoring Study

In August 2020, OCO made available \$2,000 mini-grants to its member institutions to research remote proctoring solutions, resulting in a collaborative search for managed contracts to reduce costs for institutions and students. Sixteen institutions took advantage of the grants and participated in the study.

New Web Presence

In September 2020, OCO launched its new website, <https://OCOLearnOK.org>, which includes a robust catalog of resources for online faculty and staff.

Quality Matters Savings

In October 2020, OCO began providing online registration and billing for Oklahoma Quality Matters (QM) dedicated workshops. This resulted in growth of workshop availability and a savings of \$24,000 on QM registration fees for 264 total Oklahoma participants.

OER Development Platform

In October 2020, OPEN OCO was established at <https://open.ocolearnok.org>. The PressbooksEDU network allows for 30 collaborative open educational resources (OER) projects and discounted opportunities for unlimited access for faculty, staff and students at individual OCO member institutions.

OER Grant Funding

In April 2021, OCO members voted to allocate \$15,000 to establish OER project start-up grant funding for OPEN OCO Pressbooks. This funding will provide an initial 17 project grants to OCO member institutions.

Free OER Training Course and Micro-Credentials

In April 2021, volunteer members of the Council for Online Learning (COLE) launched the *Open Educational Resources: Basics and Beyond* course and Pressbooks-built companion book. Faculty and staff across the state can earn two micro-credentials to demonstrate their OER competency.

Credly Acclaim Pilot

In May 2021, OCO launched the first-year pilot of a partnership with OSRHE and Credly Acclaim. This will equip the system to offer OSRHE-endorsed micro-credentials and individual institutions to become independent affiliates of Credly to offer digital badging at a significantly reduced cost.

2021-22 Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)/Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME) OER Institute

In May 2021, OCO provided \$4,200 to support a 10-member institution cohort application for the 2021-22 Institute on Open Educational Resources. The year-long strategic planning effort kicks off July 2021 and will shape the future of OER in Oklahoma higher education.

OCO 2020-21 ACHIEVEMENTS



25
Institutional
Members



1
Full-time
Staff Liaison



\$11,000+
In Benefits
Per Institution

Tracking Return on Investment

\$11,000+
In Benefits
Per Institution

OSRHE Staff Liaison + \$4,267.12
Summer STEM Virtual Academy + \$820
OCO website + \$240
WCET Access + \$66
Fall 2020 Remote Proctoring Study + \$2,000
OER Development Platform + \$600
Quality Matters Savings + \$956
OER Grant Funding + \$600
Credly Acclaim Pilot + \$740
AAC&U ISKME OER Institute + \$168
Professional Development Opportunities + \$500+

Table 1. OCO Membership Benefits Per Institution 2020-21

Looking Ahead for 2021-22

Ongoing Remote Instruction Support

OCO will continue to address emerging needs of innovation in online courses and programs, incorporating lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Growth of Oklahoma Quality Matters

OCO will continue to support the Oklahoma Quality Matters consortium to add further capacity for dedicated workshops and support for QM coordinators at member institutions.

Support for State System Initiatives

With new opportunities such as micro-credentials and digital badging on the horizon, OCO will provide support to institutional teams and groups of faculty and staff to help transform the future of Oklahoma higher education.

OER Project Grants

OCO will provide funding opportunities to faculty groups wishing to create, remix and revise, or adopt complete OER. A new procedure for funding these projects will allow for ongoing opportunities to empower faculty to reduce student textbook costs.

Professional Development Opportunities

With the successful launch of the OER 101 and OER Champion micro-credentials for *OER: Basics & Beyond*, OCO and COLE members are planning additional opportunities for Oklahoma faculty and staff to demonstrate online teaching and learning competencies.

Advanced Technologies

As COLE and OneNet launch their partnership for Virtual Reality Toolkit Grants, OCO will serve as a gateway to this opportunity and facilitate sharing of completed modules.

The following table displays the membership fees for the 2021-22 cycle.

FTE Category	Annual Membership Fee	Membership Dues Based on FY16 FTE
0-1,500	\$3,000	EOSC, OPSU, RCC, Science & Arts, SSC, WOSC
1,501-3,000	\$4,000	CASC, CSC, LU, MSC, NEOAMC, NOC, NWOSU, OSUIT, SEOSU, RSU
3,001-7,000	\$5,000	CU, ECU, NSU, OSU-OKC, RSC, SWOSU
7,001-13,000	\$6,000	OCCC, TCC
13,001-20,000	\$7,000	UCO
20,001-30,000	\$8,000	OU, OSU
	\$10,000	OSRHE

Overview

Thanks to the work of dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators at Oklahoma colleges and universities, 2020-21 was a year of strategic growth for OCO. Since its establishment and invitation to state system institutions to join in October 2018, OCO has maintained 25 member institutions, including support from Oklahoma ABL Tech, the COLE, the Council on Instruction, the Council of Presidents, the Council on Information Technology, the Council on Student Affairs, and OneNet. The membership dues of OCO support a full-time director of online learning initiatives at OSRHE, dedicated to the growth and support of the consortium and coordination of online learning expertise and resources across Oklahoma. OCO members make strategic shared financial investments to address common emerging needs for faculty development, the adoption of new or expansion of existing learning technologies, and increasing the capacity to develop open educational resources (OER).

OCO member institutions designate one voting representative to the OCO Steering Committee. Members also serve on COLE subcommittees in order to further both groups' shared priorities of advancing **policy, professional development, and resource initiatives** to support online learning throughout Oklahoma.

History

In **2012**, OSRHE established the Online Education Task Force to review the delivery of online education throughout the state system, further calling for working groups to develop strategies to improve online teaching with professional development for faculty and strategies for more efficiencies in technologies used for online learning. To accomplish this goal, COLE was established in **2016** and opened to volunteers from all Oklahoma institutions.

In **2018**, it was determined that a consortium be created that could dedicate a staff member and provide funding to further objectives for excellence in online learning as called for by the Online Education Task Force. OCO was established in coordination with COLE to provide funding and coordinate systemwide decisions regarding online education issues for the state system of higher education, as well as individual institutions and organizations.

OCO is a membership collaboration in which institutional membership and participation are voluntary. Membership fees fund the activities and, as of October **2019**, one OSRHE staff position to operationalize the objectives of the online consortium.

In **2021**, OCO members continue to collaborate across Oklahoma to invest in excellence in online education through policy, practice, resources and innovation. COLE and OCO regularly report data, activities and initiatives to the Online Education Task Force.

For more information, visit OCOLearnOK.org.

The screenshot shows the OCO website homepage. At the top left is the OCO logo and the text "Online Consortium of Oklahoma Collaboration and Innovation in eLearning". To the right is a navigation menu with links for MEMBERSHIP, PRIORITIES, EVENTS AND LEARNING, RECOGNITION, GET CONNECTED, NEWS, and CONTACT. Below the navigation is a main content area with several sections: "ONLINE CONSORTIUM OF OKLAHOMA PRESS" with two sub-sections: "NEED AN ACCOUNT? OPEN OCO Pressbooks Launched" (dated February 19, 2021) and "COLLABORATE WITH US!"; "OneNet and COLE Partner to Offer VR Toolkits" (dated June 15, 2021); and "Free 'OER: Basics & Beyond' Course Now Available" (dated June 9, 2021). Below these is a large section titled "Online Consortium of Oklahoma Collaboration and Innovation in eLearning" with a sub-header "Established in 2018, OCO seeks to further the expertise and development of Oklahoma's online higher education teaching, learning and communication professionals. Driven by 25 member institutions and partnership with the Council for Online Learning Excellence (COLE), OCO continuously advocates for policy, professional development and resources. Together, OCO members can more effectively promote online learning excellence for Oklahoma and leverage strategies for efficiency in learning technologies." At the bottom of this section is a "Request an OCO Learning Portal Account" button with a "SIGN UP" link.