Embracing Equity through Open Educational Resources (OER)

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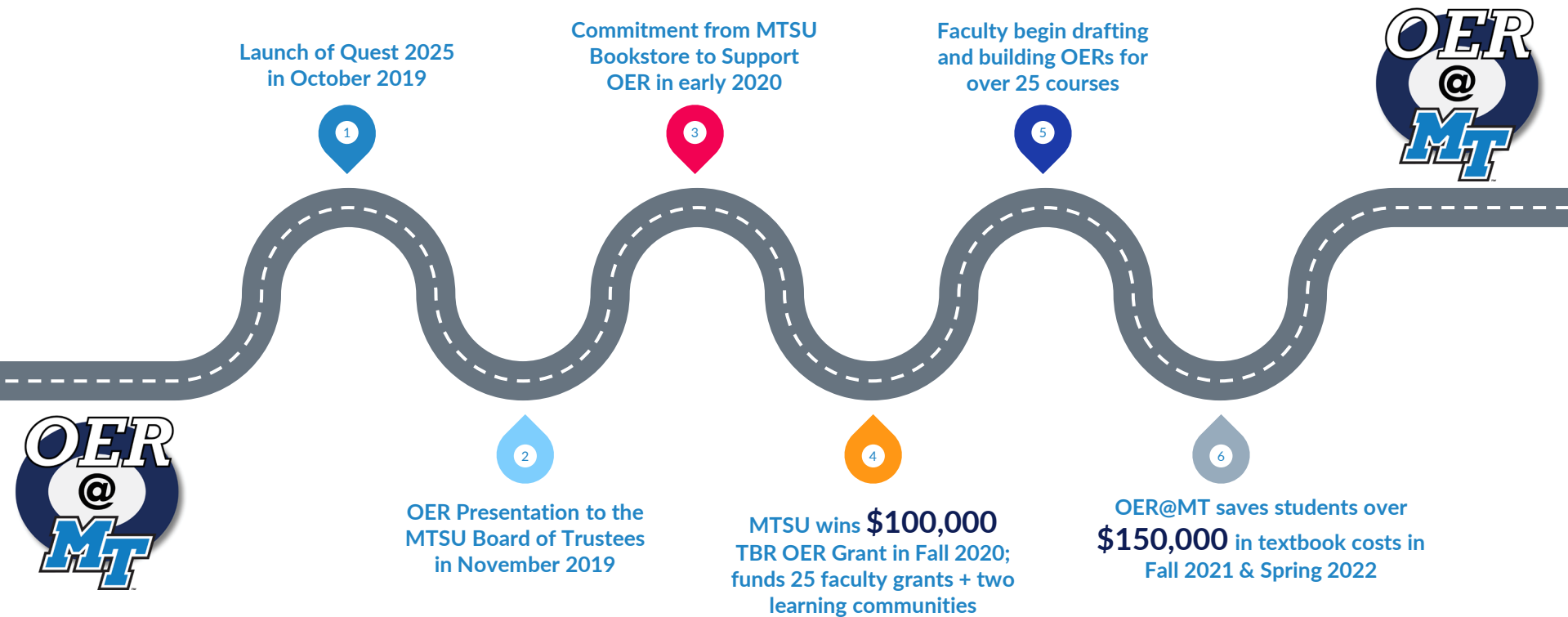**Natalie Hoskins**
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OER Definition

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching, learning, and research materials that are either **(a)** in the public domain, or **(b)** licensed in a manner that provides everyone with free and perpetual permission to engage in the 5R activities associated with OER [retain, reuse, revise, remix, redistribute]

CreativeCommons.org

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OER at MTSU

Launch of Quest 2025 in October 2019

Commitment from MTSU Bookstore to Support OER in early 2020

Faculty begin drafting and building OERs for over 25 courses

OER Presentation to the MTSU Board of Trustees in November 2019

MTSU wins **$100,000** TBR OER Grant in Fall 2020; funds 25 faculty grants + two learning communities

OER@MT saves students over **$150,000** in textbook costs in Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

Congratulations to our recent TBR grant winners!

Introduction to Education	**$45,000**
Expository Writing	**$30,000**
Public Speaking	**$5,000**

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MTSU's OER initiative, **Embracing Equity through OER**, funded by the Tennessee Board of Regents (AY 2020-2021; AY 2021-2022), **encourages instructional innovation** and enhances the scholarship of teaching and learning by **providing instructors with resources to redesign their course around the use of OER.**

$100,000 awarded
from the Tennessee Board of Regents

74 faculty, 25 courses, 2,450 students
impacted by grant-funded OER adoption, adaptation, or creation

$154,000 saved
in textbook costs across the Fall 2021 & Spring 2022 semesters

Supporting OER at MTSU

OER Research & Resources

Provided a peer-reviewed OER research and up-to-date resources on our OER website

OER Network Access

Connected faculty across TN to work together on their OER projects and published feature blogs about our faculty at MTSU

Live & Recorded OER Trainings

200+ Zoom & in-person workshops

640+ unique YouTube visits to recorded OER trainings & workshops

OER Faculty Learning Communities (FLC)

Funded 2 year-long FLCs that supported the development & sustainability of OERs

OER Committees

Steering Committee
6 members

Faculty Advisory Council
12 members

OER Support from JEWL, LT&ITC, & MTSU Online

Partnered with the JEWL, LT&ITC, & MTSU Online on Pressbooks and collaborative resources for OERs

Assessing the Impact of Two OER Pilots

Survey data were collected:

▷ To better understand student perspectives
▷ To better compare performance between groups

Survey Groups

▷ Courses that required the purchase of textbooks
▷ Courses that offered OER for free

What did we learn?

▷ **42% had delayed access or never gained access to reading materials.**

▷ Students hold negative attitudes about purchasing textbooks.
- They reported feeling "anxious," "stressed," and "overwhelmed."
- They cannot afford to purchase texts, so they often choose not to.
- They believe it should be included in tuition or fees or provided for them.

▷ Students view general education differently compared to their majors.
- Spending money on major course texts makes sense to students.

▷ Engagement with reading materials and perceiving a connection between reading and performance were significantly higher for students using OER.
- They read more often and more closely and perceived a greater benefit.

Where do we go from here?

▷ Grow OER with grant assistance from THEC

▷ Encourage more faculty, staff, and administrators to earn Creative Commons certification

▷ Work with the JEWL to take on a larger responsibility with OER at MTSU

▷ Continue using Pressbooks software to publish OERs

▷ Continue partnering with Phillips Bookstore

▷ Spread the word about the OER course attribute in Banner to advisors, students, and parents

▷ Encourage student input into creating OER as a high impact practice

Thanks!

Any questions?

Find more information about our OER grant projects and sustainability plans on our website: www.mtsu.edu/oer