Open Educational Resources (OER) Specialists
2020 Call for Applications

Affordable Learning PA (ALPA) is seeking passionate leaders to serve as OER Specialists for 2020-22. The successful applicants will become experts in OER trends, information, and community building, and serve as trainers, advisors, and advocates for building OER and textbook affordability efforts. OER Specialists will be selected to represent the diversity of our institution types, e.g., private, public, and community colleges. They will participate in regular meetings to plan strategy, design and coordinate events, and manage project progress. Together with ALPA’s Working Groups, Campus Partners, and Steering Committee, OER Specialists will advance the adoption of textbook affordability on campuses across the Commonwealth and the region.

This is a volunteer leadership position requiring a minimum two-year commitment, with the possibility of renewing for an additional 2 years. We anticipate a time commitment of 8-10 hours per month, with an expected minimum of three projects supporting OER initiatives for other campuses during each year of participation.

Responsibilities
- Participate in training and team-building activities during July and August 2020, including initial training with the Open Textbook Network (OTN)
- Throughout the two-year term, perform train-the-trainer activity for academic institutions in support of open and affordable learning, with special focus on teaching Campus Partners and other library staff how to organize and conduct OER training or advocacy for their own campuses
- Along with the full cohort of 8 OER Specialists, serve as an administrator for ALPA’s consortial membership in the OTN, including management of the Data Dashboard and providing support for consortial members with OTN programs and services
- Attend and participate in ALPA training, programs, and strategy meetings (primarily through virtual participation)
- Consult with the ALPA Working Groups for planning and development of programs as well as advocacy efforts
- Travel occasionally to local/regional workshops, or offer virtual support through remote teaching tools
- Provide quarterly activity reports to ALPA Project Staff
Qualifications/Commitments

- Experience or familiarity with implementing an open educational content initiative or delivering OER training
- Possess working knowledge of open access and open education
- Demonstrated experience with teaching/training, especially with adult learners
- Able to attend or participate virtually in ALPa-related meetings throughout the region or online
- Documented institutional support for active participation in both training and active responsibilities as an OER Specialist

Benefits

- Up to $1500 in funding to support approved training and professional development activities related to open education, affordable learning, and/or open publishing
- Fully-subsidized Allied Membership in the Open Textbook Network ($500 value) for home institution during both years of service
- When travel is possible, approved travel costs in support of ALPA programs or activities will be covered by the grant

Application Process

For fullest consideration, please complete and submit the online application form by June 15, 2020. All selected candidates will be required to provide an email of support from their library's administration (Dean/Director) certifying their support of the appointment, including release of time for ALPA commitments and travel as indicated in the OER Specialist position description.

About Affordable Learning PA

Affordable Learning Pennsylvania is made possible in part by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Department of Education, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, Governor. The project is building a community of practice among academic libraries to advance textbook affordability for our students through programs to create awareness, build expertise to lead OER initiatives, and promote best practices and collaboration in the community. ALPA and PALCI jointly hold a consortial membership in the Open Textbook Network (OTN), enabling our community to collaborate with librarians and faculty throughout the US in support of affordable learning initiatives and content.