

## Clark College- Disability Supp. | Penguin Pathways - OER with Julie Austad

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Good morning. Good morning, Penguin nation. I'm so excited today. We've got a birthday guest in the house for your Penguin Pathways podcast. All things guided pathways at Clark College. And we're going to get into it very shortly.

All right, everyone. So we've got a special guest today. Julie Austad is here. Our dean of-- she will explain the entire acronym for all of us. And I want to wish you a happy birthday, Julie. What a special day to be here in the studio. So welcome. Why don't you introduce your title so I don't get it incorrect.

Thank you. Thanks, Rhianna. It's really exciting to be here. Yes, and it's Dean of Class, which is Clark Libraries and Academic Success Services. And I always follow that up with, what are those? So the library, tutoring, e-learning, and faculty development is my area.

Well, I'm glad I left that for you because I was going to say academic support services, and I would have been incorrect.

That's a common one. Yeah. Success. We're about student success.

All about student success. Well, thanks for coming and talking about Guided Pathways with us today. Rhianna Johnson, Director of Guided Pathways, and happy to have you again. So today, we're going to be talking with Julie about open education resources. And there's a lot of different projects going on actually. We've had Lindsay Schumacher on the podcast. Yay. Give it up for TLC. And that's just one of the projects going on with Guided Pathways in the class unit.

But today, we're talking about OER. So why don't you start us out by talking about what that is? What's an open education resource?

Yes. That's a great place to start. So OER, open educational resources, are just one kind of zero textbook cost materials. So you'll kind of hear me throw those around. OER and ZTC. And OER specifically are teaching materials, learning materials, or research resources that may reside in the public domain or have some other kind of open license. So they can be used freely by others and repurposed. And it could be a textbook. It could be a whole course, videos, test modules.

Any kind of course material you can think of, you can have an OER version of that. And then the ZTC, I mentioned earlier, that's zero textbook cost. It's just what it sounds like. So it's any course materials that the students don't incur any cost to use for access. So that could be OER. But it also goes into things like teacher created materials, resources that you can access through a library, things that are just available openly on the web, or anywhere else.

Awesome. Well, that's obviously you know very beneficial to students in terms of affordability, which is a big component of our students being successful. I remember when I was a college student, I used to go on half.com and look for all my books.

Yes. I remember that one.

And then sell them back.

I did that one too.

Awesome. So what have we done so far at Clark? What have we developed in the area of OER?

Well, I have to say that there have been folks at Clark working on OER for a couple of decades. I mean, some folks have had OER in their classes for a long time. So more power to them. They've been doing this for the long haul. So just want to acknowledge that right out the gate. And then, more recently, we have an OER steering committee. So this is a group of folks from different areas around campus that kind of work to guide and direct OER initiatives. Because we know that there are a lot of pockets of work happening around OER, a few years back we really saw a need to coordinate some of that effort. Kind of get the word out more. And make it a more coordinated effort to increase the use of OER in campus. So that's a big part of OER work lately.

And in that group, I want to highlight Dr. Maggie Lynch. So she is with us this year. And she has been our fellow really helping to have intentional time in the planning of that committee's OER fellow. And has just been an extremely valuable source of guidance for us over this past year. So we're really excited to have her. And yeah.

We've got another thing that's a little bit more recent is the ability to search for classes that use OER or low cost materials. So that's a CTC link related feature. So if you're searching for your classes in the course catalog, you can now use a filter to only see classes that use OER or low cost. And low cost is defined as \$50 or less for the course. So those are some newer things happening.

Exciting. Great information for students to know because the \$200 plus textbook is a little bit shocking.

It is. Yeah. Absolutely.

So what are some things that you have planned for the upcoming year? I know the project has received some funding from Guided Pathways. What are some things you have in mind?

Well, for the past two years, we've offered an OER community of practice focused on faculty. And that's in spring. So we have that coming up again this spring. Just a month out. And we also have a new opportunity coming up. We're offering OER and ZTC faculty grants. So for folks that want to spend some extra time maybe converting a course or even just learning about OER, we have some funding available to support that time. That extra time.

And yeah. And then we'll have some lightning talks coming up too since we do have a lot of folks who have been using OER in their classes. They will be sharing their experiences. How it's gone for them over the past few years. And some of those are past community of practice participants. So now they're sharing kind of how it went, and how they're using what they learned.

Awesome. Well, that sounds like a great plan. Share everything. We don't have to reinvent the wheel. So can you talk a little bit-- we've talked in the *Guided Pathways Podcast* with different guests about how they're addressing equity gaps and some of the things that they're doing in order to address some of those things. How do you think OER work really supports the DEI efforts that we have at the college?

Yeah. Well, we talked about the one that people jump to first, which is just removing a barrier of cost to students. And that is really major. It just makes it that much easier for anybody to say, yep, I'm going to do this. I'm going to go for it. But that's not the only equity. The way that OER use closes equity gaps.

Another way is when you're selecting your own materials, instead of using like a traditional textbook, you have an opportunity to really design courses and content that directly relates to who's in your classroom. So there's a lot of opportunity there to kind of get to know your students, and then select materials that are going to be relevant, and will speak to their experience. And you can also incorporate some of the students own experiences and knowledge into the course content. That's sometimes referred to as open pedagogy where students can have some agency over what direction they want the course to go, or what specific topics they want to focus on within an area. Within a topic. And so they can really hear their own voices, and see their own experience in the course itself.

And then a third way that's also really significant is the ability to ensure that the course content is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. So textbook publishers often have of course materials that are online. And they come with all of these quizzes, and tests, and videos, and different formats of things, which can be great. Unfortunately, they are often not fully accessible. So if you're using OER or there's ZTC, you can create or choose materials that have captioned videos, descriptive text of images, or use heading levels just for a few examples so that nobody is excluded from accessing the content.

Wonderful. Well, I really appreciate hearing about those efforts. It sounds like you're really collaborating with the various academic departments to increase resources for students and improve access to the materials that we provide. So really appreciate you coming in on your birthday.

Oh, thank you so much.

We feel very special here in the podcast room to have you on your birthday.

No place I'd rather be. Really.

Well, I hope you enjoy very much. And thank you so much for being here.

Thank you, Rianna. My pleasure.