



Alabama Commission on Higher Education Open Educational Resources Workshop

Thursday, September 11, 2025
Marx Library, University of South Alabama

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| 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. | Welcome and Opening Remarks Lorene Flanders, Executive Director of University Libraries, University of South Alabama Dr. Harold Pardue, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of South Alabama Dr. Robin McGill, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, ACHE |
| 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. | Designing the Future of Open Through Innovation: Integrating AI to Support Z-Degrees and Institutional Transformation Josh Hill, Instructional Designer, Center for Innovative Teaching and Technology, Hillsborough College |
| 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. | Break |
| 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Empowering Learners and Expanding Access with Open Educational Resources Jennifer Pate, Director of OpenEd at Texas A&M |
| 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Building a Statewide Advocacy Network for Affordable Learning: Lessons from Georgia Nakita Afah, Program Manager, Affordable Learning Georgia |
| 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch, Rodning Gallery, 3rd Floor |
| 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | Motivat-OER Rebel Cummings-Sauls, Director, Digital Services and OER FLVC Library Service |
| 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. | Break |
| 2:15 – 3:00 p.m. | Tooling for the Creation & Integration of OER Documents & Technologies Steven Clontz, Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of South Alabama |

Lunch and refreshments provided.





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Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lorene Flanders, Executive Director of University Libraries,
University of South Alabama

Dr. Harold Pardue, Dean of the Graduate School and Associate
Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of South Alabama
Dr. Robin McGill, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, ACHE

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

Designing the Future of Open Through Innovation: Integrating AI to Support Z-Degrees and Institutional Transformation

Josh Hill, Instructional Designer, Center for Innovative Teaching
and Technology, Hillsborough College

Josh leads an initiative at Hillsborough College that is among the first in the nation to integrate artificial intelligence with Open Educational Resources (OER) to help faculty create high-quality, zero-cost, and accessible course materials. Supported by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Open Education Capacity Building Grant, Hillsborough is developing Z-degree pathways through paid faculty opportunities, targeted training for academic advisors, and tools to track and expand OER adoption. This session shares lessons learned, explores AI–OER implementation strategies, and presents scalable, adaptable models for institutions in Alabama and beyond.

9:45 – 10:0 a.m.

Break





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10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Empowering Learners and Expanding Access with Open Educational Resources

Jennifer Pate, Director of OpenEd at Texas A&M

Go beyond Open Educational Resources (OER) to understand the broader landscape of Open Educational Practices (OEP). This session will provide an overview of key OEP principles and demonstrate practical applications for fostering learner agency, enhancing cost-effectiveness, and expanding the reach of educational content. Participants will gain insights into integrating OEP into their own teaching and institutional strategies.

11:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Building a Statewide Advocacy Network for Affordable Learning: Lessons from Georgia

Nakita Afah, Program Manager, Affordable Learning Georgia

How do you support a system-wide movement for affordable learning that lasts? In this session, we will take a behind-the-scenes look at the evolution of the Affordable Learning Georgia (ALG) advocacy network—from its roots in instructional design and library collaboration to its transformation into a robust, cross-campus alliance of Champions. You'll learn how ALG leveraged librarians, faculty, instructional designers, and administrative support to drive meaningful change across 26 institutions. Whether you're a librarian, faculty member, instructional designer, or administrator, you'll walk away with practical tips and strategies to build a similar statewide or system-wide advocacy team.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch, Rodning Gallery, 3rd Floor





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1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Motivat-OER

Rebel Cummings-Sauls, Director, Digital Services and OER
FLVC Library Service

This session will overview the many ways in which OER can be a motivator at any institution. Exploring the different roles on campus we will see the stimulators for each. Attendees will leave as a Motivat-OER, with ideas and resources to inspire others and build enthusiasm for OER.

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15 – 3:00 p.m.

Tooling for the Creation and Integration of OER Documents and Technologies

Steven Clontz, Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of South Alabama

In order for Open Educational Resources to live up to their promise as a viable alternative to paid offerings, authors must have access to high-quality software to produce not only static texts, but also interactive and accessible electronic resources. The presenter will demonstrate how the PreTeXt authoring ecosystem puts powerful tools for creating such resources in the hands of authors, without requiring a significant technical background. This talk is based on work funded by the National Science Foundation's Pathways to Enable Open Source Ecosystems grant program.

Lunch and refreshments provided.

