



Alabama Commission on Higher Education

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES WORKSHOP

SPEAKERS

Joshua Hill

**Instructional Designer, Center for Innovative Teaching
and Technology, Hillsborough College**

Joshua is a recognized leader in Open Educational Resources (OER), known for advancing faculty-centered innovation and expanding access in higher education. He founded the Zero Textbook Cost Initiative at Hillsborough College, a statewide leader in the OER movement, and launched one of the nation's first AI-supported OER creation programs. He also established Florida's only self-hosted Pressbooks system and has authored or produced multiple open textbooks, OER training courses, and scholarly publications.

Joshua launched the Alabama Open Publishing House at Troy University and was a founding member of the Alabama Virtual Library OER Commons. While at Auburn University at Montgomery, he developed an English textbook that has been adopted by institutions around the world. His work continues to support faculty development and open publishing through strategic, sustainable approaches. He presents regularly at regional and national conferences, offering practical strategies for textbook production, accessible design, and expanding the impact of OER.

Jennifer Pate
Director of OpenEd, Texas A&M

Jennifer is the Director of OpenEd at Texas A&M Libraries where she supports student success by leading textbook equity initiatives for her campus and supporting broader OER efforts across the A&M system. She has worked with the AACU's Institute on Open mentoring campuses through their OER Program development and is a Founding Fellow with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's OER Fellowship program. She is currently on the Open Education Network's Steering Committee and is an active member of DOERS and is vice-chair of the Texas Digital Library's OER user group. Jennifer holds an MLIS from the University of Alabama and a second master's degree in Instructional Technology and Design focused on incorporating open education practices from the University of North Alabama. Prior to joining Texas A&M, Jennifer was the Open Education Resources and Scholarly Communications librarian at the University of North Alabama, where she implemented their first-ever OER grant program and started their first digital press.

Nakita Afaha
Program Manager, Affordable Learning Georgia

Nakita Afaha joined Affordable Learning Georgia in May 2023 as a Program Manager. She holds an Ed.S. in Instructional Technology, an MS in Adult Education, and a BS in Business Education. Her experience includes managing online student success initiatives, OER and library resource-based course development, eLearning instructional design, and coordinating online programs at various institutions within the University System of Georgia (USG). Her expertise in student success, instructional design, and open education continues to evolve, as she now manages Open Education initiatives for USG's Affordable Learning Georgia.

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

Rebel Cummings-Sauls serves as Director of Digital Services and Open Educational Resources for The Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative. Ms. Cummings-Sauls has more than 10 years of experience in higher education, with over six years in academic research libraries. Prior to her appointment with the Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative, she served as the Director of the Center for the Advancement of Digital Scholarship for Hale Library at Kansas State University. Prior to her appointment to Kansas State in 2015, she served more than three years as Library Operations Coordinator for the Tampa Library at the University of South Florida.

Charlotte Ford (AUM)
Library Director, University of Montevallo

Charlotte is the library director at the University of Montevallo, Alabama's public liberal arts college. Her MLIS and PhD degrees are from Indiana University, and she has been a librarian for more than 35 years. Charlotte's interest in Open Access is rooted in the librarians' philosophy of providing information to users for free, and this interest has been nurtured by the rising costs of journals, database subscriptions, and textbooks.

Steven Clontz (USA)
Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics,
University of South Alabama

Steven Clontz is a mathematician, professor, and puzzle designer based out of the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. His scholarship includes research in general and set-theoretic topology, as well as the advancement of sociotechnical infrastructure underlying contemporary mathematics and STEM education research and practice. In the classroom, Dr. Clontz uses active learning techniques such as Team-Based Inquiry Learning to help his students discover mathematics for themselves. His puzzles and games have been published in print, featured at such venues as the National Museum of Mathematics, and included in MaPP Challenge events across the country.