Proposing Washington 85

What is it?

Tentatively called Washington 85, the proposed project aims to develop a comprehensive inventory of peer-recommended Open Educational Resources (OER) for Washington's community & technical colleges' 85 highest-enrolled classes. System faculty members and staff will be invited to refer their favorite OER to the list. The final deliverable will be one comprehensive referetory filled with peer-recommended OER for the system's most commonly used classes.

What are the benefits?

This will save a tremendous amount of time for the new-to-OER faculty members by eliminating the hours needed for the initial search for flagship OER for their discipline. Naturally, it will introduce faculty members to some nationally renowned OER repositories and will expedite the process of creating an active OER user community by rapidly bringing them up to speed.

It will provide direct support for the system initiatives related to mapping out students' academic progress, such as **Running Start and Guided Pathway**. The most commonly taken courses in these programs are consistent with the system's highest enrolled classes, so creating one comprehensive database of affordable materials for these targeted courses will be highly beneficial. This will also encourage participation of marginalized students who have traditionally shown low involvement in such programs.

How will the work proceed?

While the specifics are to be determined, the general process might involve:

1. Developing a template, possibly in Google sheets allowing easy participation, including meta-data, and acknowledging the contributor,
2. Inviting WACTC faculty members and staff to contribute the resources, and
3. Moving the inventory to an online platform