Why OER?

LAYLA BONNOT, Council of Chief State School Officers: The reason that I work on open educational resources is that I believe that every learner and educator has a right to high-quality content to further their education.

JOHN HILTON III, Brigham Young University: So I personally think this is an equity issue. I think it's important for people to have equal access to educational resources and I get that 20 or 30 years ago that just wasn't possible. We had finite resources but we live in a different world today and it is possible for all students to have equal access to high quality resources and I think it's important that we do research to see what happens when students have that kind of access.

BARBARA SOOTS, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: I personally enjoy working with openly licensed resources and open education resources, because it really empowers teachers to make a difference in having a very strong voice, in sharing content with their students, and providing instructional materials for their students.

JARED ROBINSON, Michigan Department of Education: When you decide that you want to make the jump and adopt open educational resources you also join a community of scholar learners who are doing the same work and it's a great group of people. It's really really a fun group to be involved with.

MEREDITH JACOB, Creative Commons U.S.: I think one of the really exciting things about open educational resources and about the role that open licenses play within that is it gives teachers a way to clearly understand what materials they can freely use and to take worries about copyright out of the classroom and out of the system that teachers use to share and create materials.

MELINDA BOLAND, OER Commons: I personally do this work with OER because I believe in the idea of empowering teachers to create the content and no longer being bound by what publishers are offering to them. I come from a publishing background and so for me it really... I like to give that power to the teacher so they can create resources and share them and use them without being bound by print cycles and the financial ramifications.

KATIE STEEN, U.S. Public Interest Research Group: We know that a college degree is one of the most important factors in determining someone's ability to move up and move through different socio-economic statuses and that's really important to achieving a living wage in the future. And so because that's so important students need better access to college and reducing costs, the cost of college, and OER provides an avenue to decrease the college costs.

NICOLE ALLEN, SPARC: For me openness is the way the world should work and I'm working to help transition the systems that we have in place to move toward maximizing the potential that

is just so obvious to me in our ability to reach literally anybody around the world, who has access to the internet, with a wealth of knowledge.

KRISTINA PETERS, U.S. Department of Education: I personally do this work because I am a former elementary teacher and I know that the district issued curriculum was not enough for my students. I was constantly looking for supplemental resources myself especially for my ELL students because they came to me not speaking English and the curriculum didn't have enough supports.

CABLE GREEN, Creative Commons: Another reason why I care about open educational resources is I believe that everyone in the world should have access and equal access to high-quality and effective educational resources and today that's not the case. If you have money you're able to afford what you need for your educational resources and if you don't have a lot of money, you're simply not able to afford it. That's not right in a world where we can share educational resources at the marginal cost of zero.