

Opening the Future

Equity, Sustainability, and Promise
in Higher Education

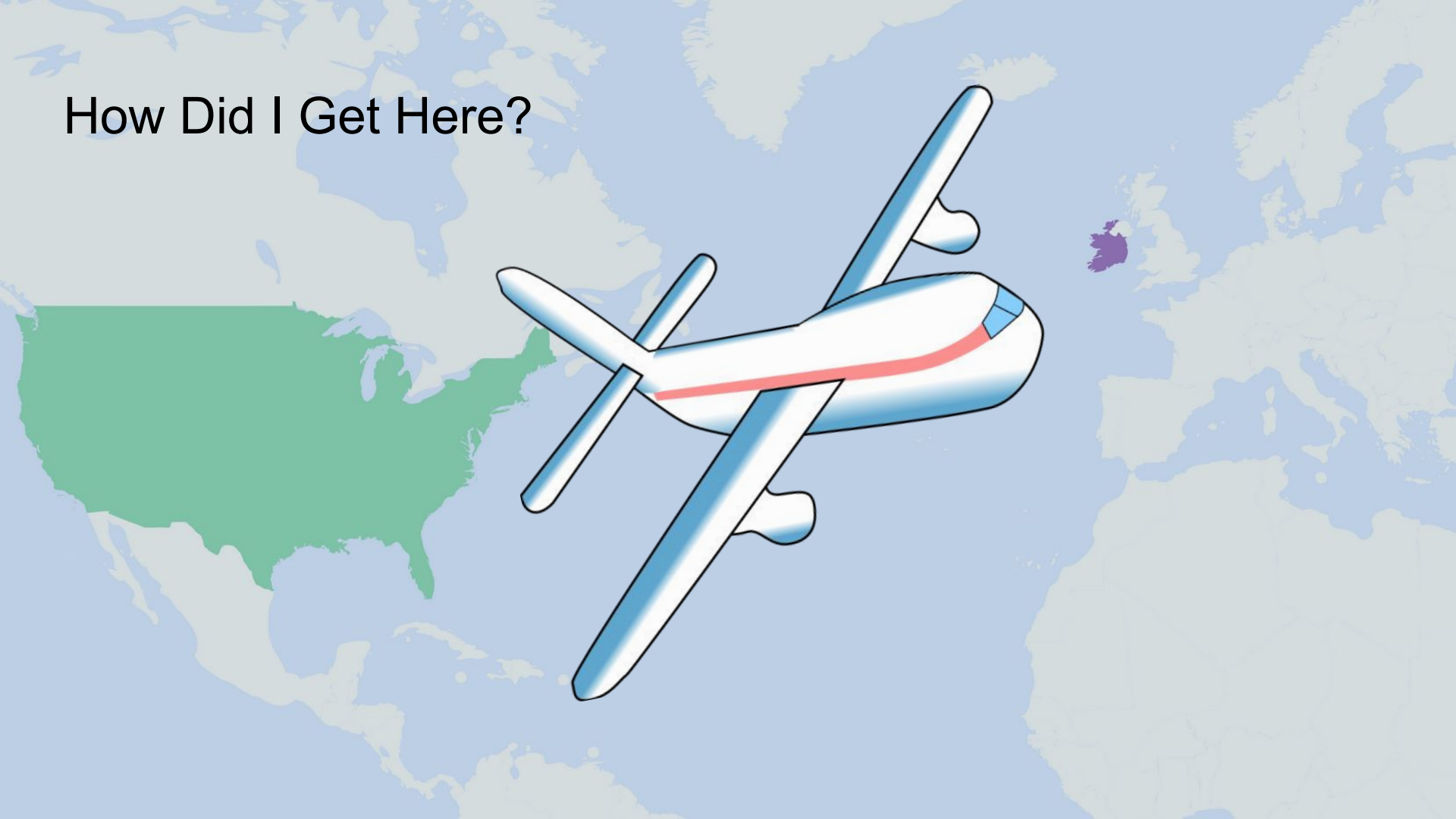
Dr. Robin DeRosa
Open Education Network
University of Minnesota, USA



*This presentation was produced by a human without the aid of AI,
though Grackle Slides was used to review the accessibility of the slide deck.*

bit.ly/HEAOPEN

How Did I Get Here?



But how did I REALLY get here?

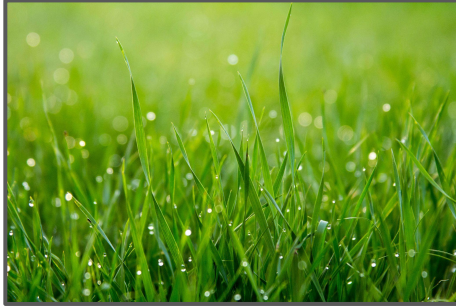
- Researching
- Teaching
- Advising
- Supporting Faculty
- Directing a Library

Care, Listen, (and then) Innovate



How did YOU get here?

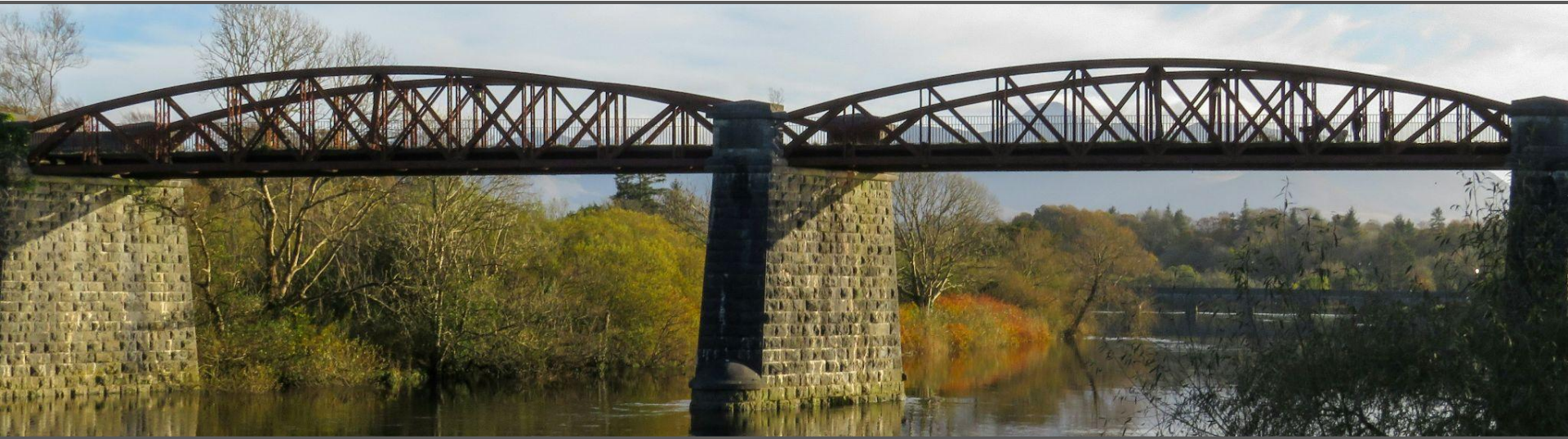
This event is part of the Higher Education Authority's commitment to advancing open education across Irish higher education.



Open Education

resources, tools, and practices for learning and teaching that seek to *open up* education by **increasing access** and enabling learners and teachers to **work across boundaries** of all kinds:

modalities, disciplines, sectors, geographical borders, legal restrictions



open = free + permissions

€0





Open Educational Resources

(OpenStax from Rice University)

One School, One Program

The nursing program at the University of North Georgia saved students nearly €78,000 in one academic year by implementing OER in 5 nursing courses.



Colorado has the same number of undergrads as Ireland

In the first year of their OER initiative, Colorado saved €3.9 million for students (only 10% of students reached by the initiative; actual ROI 7x).

The cumulative cost savings for the first six years of the program are projected to surpass **€64 million** this year.



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

Z-Degrees: No Cost for Books

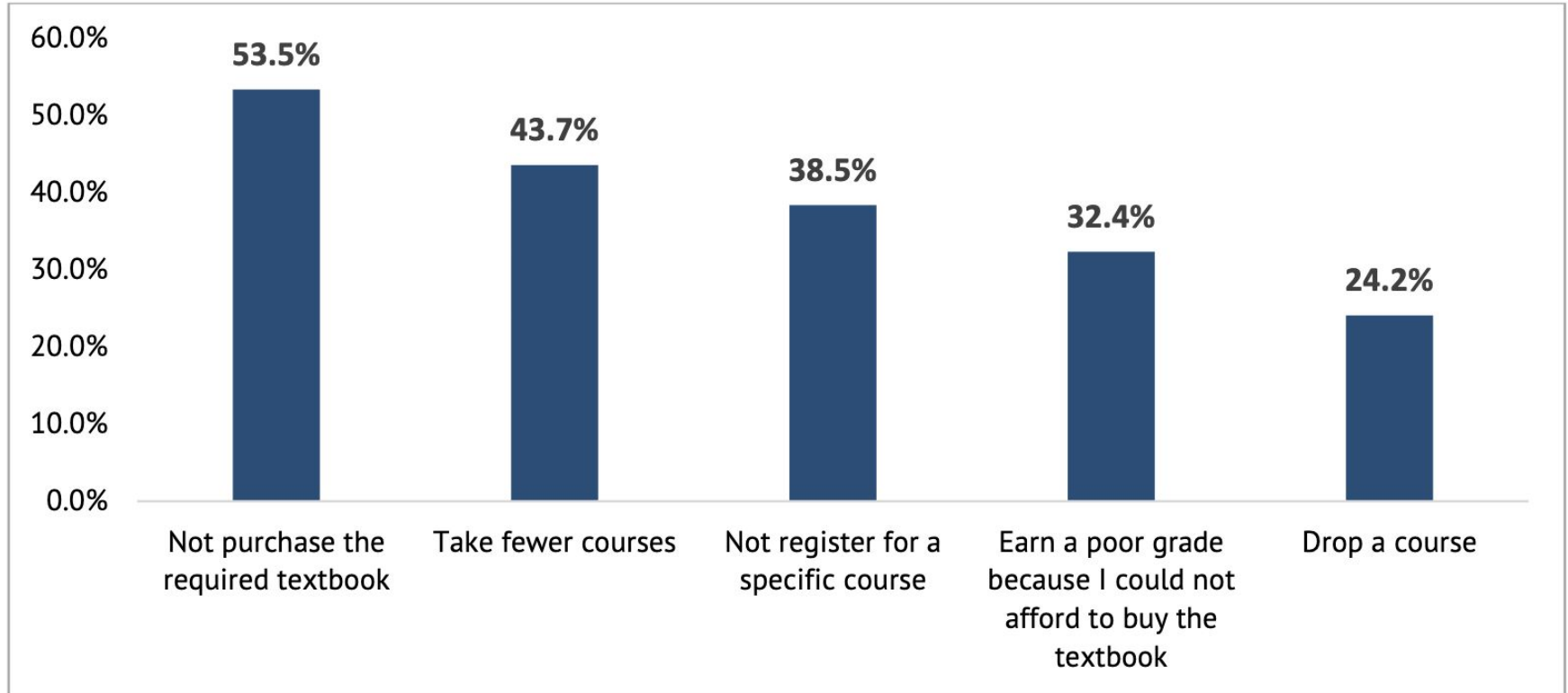
Zero-cost degrees at Montgomery College in Maryland: Business, General Studies, Communications, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Data Science.

Students have been voting with their feet. In a time when many community colleges are seeing their enrollments drop, Montgomery's Z-degree programs and courses are seeing **solid enrollment growth** (23% from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026).

More than 40%
of full-time
undergraduates
in Ireland received
SUSI grants in 2024-25.



Impact of Textbook Costs on Students



Cutting Costs Isn't ALWAYS a Winning Strategy

*Raise your hand if you
have witnessed a
cost-saving strategy in
higher ed that you think
made learning conditions
worse.*

RAISE YOUR HAND



IF YOU'RE TIRED OF EVERYTHING

OER: Lower Student Costs & Improve Learning Outcomes

- Fewer drops & withdrawals;
- Improved grades;
- Improved retention rates;
- More credits earned per student;
- Improvement across all demographics, but added benefit for poorer students.



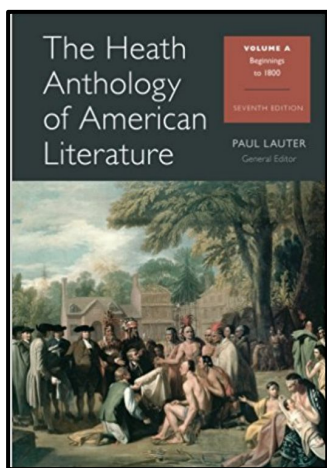
open = free + permissions

€0



open = free + permissions





The circumstances which gave rise to Columbus' voyage began when the Silk Road became dangerous for Europeans. India and China were vital trade partners as they had resources such as spices, silks, and dyes. The Silk Road was an important trade network which connected Europe to those eastern lands; it

and the fall of Constantinople to Ottoman Turks west ("Silk Road"). In the 1480s, Columbus adopted Toscanelli's idea that sailing westward from Europe would lead to the Indies. Columbus brought his plan to the Spanish monarchs, and they all rejected it, claiming that he was heading for certain death. Columbus then sailed to Spanish King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella I in 1486. It took four years for them to finally accept it. In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail for his first voyage out of a total of four ("Christopher Columbus").

The first reading is an excerpt from *Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus*. Unfortunately, the original journal kept by Columbus has since been lost. What remains is a mix of Columbus' original abstract, transcribed by Bartolomé de las Casas, and first-hand observations from Columbus' son Ferdinand. There are times when the narrator is Christopher Columbus himself

INTRODUCTION

HANNAH HOUNSELL



NARRATIVE OF THE THIRD VOYAGE, 1498-1500 (EXCERPT)

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

I have always read that the world comprising the land and the spherical, and the recorded experiences of Ptolemy and all of this by the eclipses of the moon and other observations made as well as the elevation of the Pole from North to South. But described, I have now seen so much irregularity, that I have concluded respecting the Earth, namely, that it is not round of the form of a pear, which is very round except where the part it is most prominent; or like a round ball upon part of it like a woman's nipple, this protrusion being the highest and situated under the equinoctial line, and at the eastern extremity.

Ptolemy and the other philosophers who have written upon it that it was spherical, believing that this [western] hemisphere as that in which they themselves dwelt, the centre of which is Arin, which is under the equinoctial line between the Arabia

I found the people black and the land very much burnt; and when after that I went to the Cape Verde Islands I found: ... More

This is very interesting to me. He starts out talking about his journey and his hope to find truths about the land, but all I see here is how concerned he is about the color of these other peoples skin. Definitely some weird undertones here to me.

the people there were excessively black, and as I sailed westward the heat became extreme.

proximity to equator

excessively black

Interesting choice of words, I'd be curious to see these people and see if they really are excessively black

Hide replies (1)

klariiviere

I agree! What exactly is "excessively black" to Columbus?

THE OPEN ANTHOLOGY OF EARLIER AMERICAN LITERATURE

Abby Goode

REBUS Community

Tim Robbins Presents Open Anthology of American Literature at MLA Convention

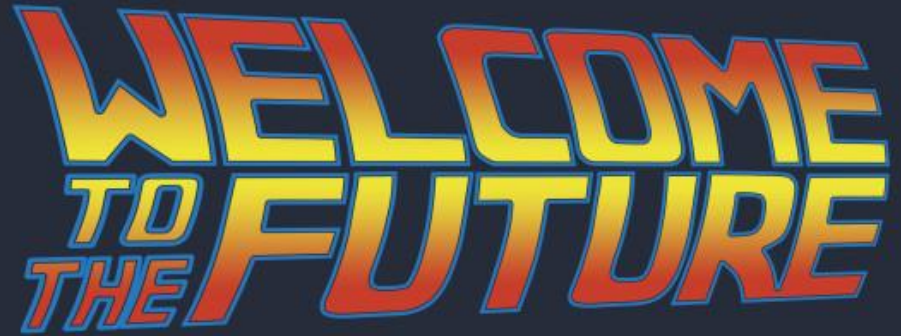
Posted on January 3, 2018 by apurva - Open Textbook Projects

The Open Anthology of Earlier American Literature

Edited by Timothy Robbins

Open Pedagogy

- Disposable →
non-disposable →
renewable assignments;
- Teachers downloading →
students uploading;
- Isolated classrooms →
connected learning
networks.



WELCOME
TO
THE FUTURE

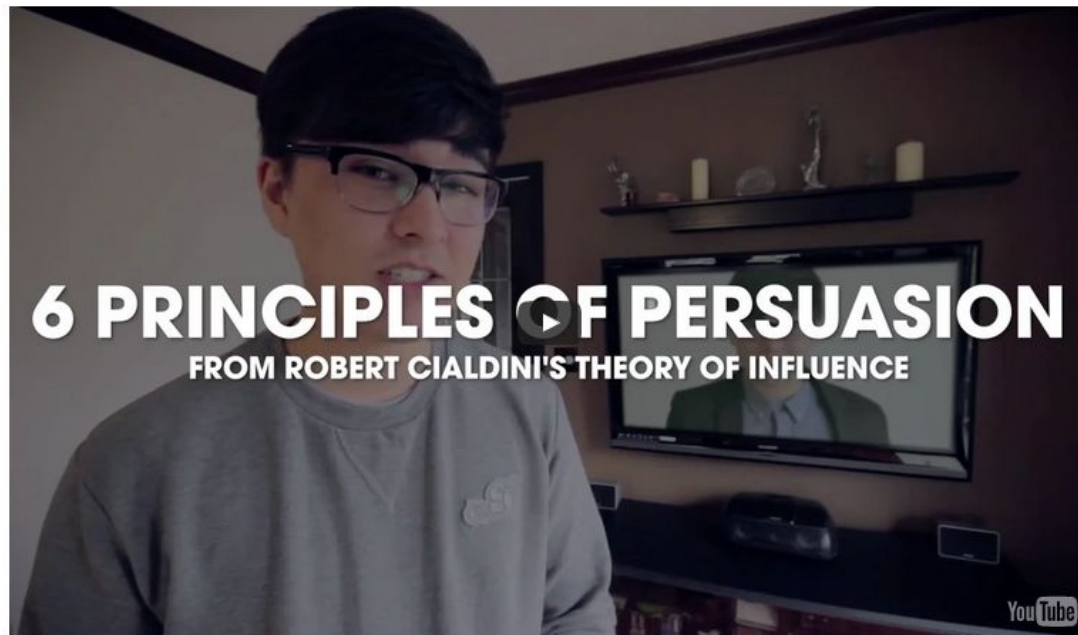
First Place Award - \$6,000

The Principles of Persuasion

Kyle Ball and Brandon Do

Simon Fraser University - Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Once we began to create our video on aspects of the 'Persuasion: So Easily Fooled' module, we were motivated by the knowledge that our video had the potential to teach others about the topic. We learned a lot in researching and reading about the topic of persuasion, and we hope our video continues to spread the knowledge and inspire others to want to learn more. Even after the production of the video had concluded we began to notice the principles we discussed in advertisements as we looked around. The creation and continued result is a fascinating thing and we are so glad to have participated.



Environmental ScienceBites

Edited by Kylienne A. Clark, Travis R. Shaul, and Brian H. Lower

Sydney R. Morrison, Jaymes T. StClair, Levi J. Cramer, Alyssa M. Jones, Brittany L. Sulainis, Jeremie E. Beaverstock, Amanda L. Varcho, Kelly E. Peterson, Chayli T. Buenger, Wyatt T. Susich, Chris Ebersole, Brandon S. Wator, John A. Zagar, Jace A. Ball, Lee Seitz, Benjamin W. Schumann, Mason F. Ye, Alyssa M. Zearley, Cain W. Crouse, Allyson E. Loparo, Rika L. Bailey, Emily C. Mills, Andrew T. Wood, Lydia F. Bednarski, Samantha K. Runser

**Bite-sized Investigations into Earth's Challenges, written by
Buckeyes**



This book was written by undergraduate students at The Ohio State University (OSU) who were enrolled in the class Introduction to Environmental Science. The chapters describe some of Earth's major environmental challenges and discuss ways that humans are using cutting-edge science and engineering to provide sustainable solutions to these problems.



Get Inspired!

- ★ Open Pedagogy
- ★ Open Educational Practices (OEP)
- ★ Nondisposable Assignments
- ★ Renewable Assignments
- ★ Reusable Learning Resources (RLR)

RLR at MTU

First launched in 2023/2024 by the Department of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) in Cork and the E-learning Development Services Unit (EDSU) in Kerry, the **Reusable Learning Resources** Initiative was established as a university-wide project to support the creation of **media-rich, open educational resources (OERs)** across a diverse range of disciplines.



SATLE IMPACT AWARD

HEA | AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY

TL NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Open Pedagogy Portal

Disciplines



Business



Computer
Science



Education



Engineering



Humanities



Journalism,
Media
Studies, &
Communicati
on



Law



Mathematics



Medicine



Natural
Sciences



Social
Sciences



Student
Success

Equity, Sustainability, Promise



Make learning more affordable; facilitate first-day access for all students.



Invest in renewable resources: faculty development and open infrastructure; leverage university assets for the public good.



What does your university promise to its students?
to its region? to its country? to our world?

No Wheel Reinvention Needed

- Help faculty learn about OER and adopt open textbooks and materials.
- Introduce faculty to open pedagogy and support new ways for them to help students contribute knowledge to the world.
- Support faculty authors and designers who want to create and publish OER.
- Encourage faculty teamwork to enable Z-Degrees.
- Track your progress on cost-savings, engagement, and learning outcomes.





Sarah





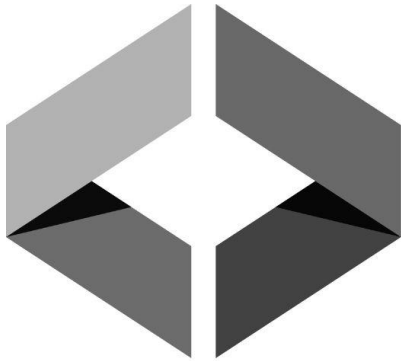
Catherine



We've Got You Covered!

HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority



**Open Education
Network**

Open Education Network

1,793 colleges, universities, consortia, and regional systems represented through membership.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Open Education Network

- Professional development: training, slides, resources galore! Too much to list!
- [Open Textbook Library](#)
 - Workshop Review Pairing
 - [UK & Ireland Collection](#)
- [UK & Ireland Community of Practice](#)
- OEN Google Group: a goldmine of answers, tips, assistance!
- [Manifold](#) publishing platform plus PUB101
- [Data Dashboard](#): track savings, engagement, participation
- [OEN Engage!](#) in July
- [NICE Forum](#) for leaders of large-scale initiatives
- Discounts on additional platforms, workshops, certificates, and more!



The Crane Bar, Caroline, The Census & Ballybacon



*Ní neart
go cur
le chéile*

