



**NEVADA STUDENT ALLIANCE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES TO BE CREATED AND MAINTAINED
BY THE NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Nevada Student Alliance is composed of the students within the higher education institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education, which are: University of Nevada, Reno (UNR); University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); Nevada State College (NSC); College of Southern Nevada (CSN); Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC); Western Nevada College (WNC); Great Basin College (GBC); and Desert Research Institute (DRI); AND

WHEREAS, according to Bureau of Labor statistics, the cost of textbooks for college students in the United States increased by 88 percent between 2006 and 2016, the highest of any educational category during this period¹; AND

WHEREAS, students in general education courses, which cover content that is easily accessed through online educational resources, could save hundreds of dollars in book expenses by utilizing peer reviewed materials available as open educational resources and shown to be successful in other states^{2, 4}; AND

WHEREAS, to be successful and able to compete with institutions outside Nevada and to maintain consistency across the System, the open educational resources would need to stay centralized and made available for all institutions within NSHE³; AND

WHEREAS, in order to support NSHE institutions in offering a more diverse selection of courses, it is imperative for Nevada to join the growing number of states offering open education resources; AND

WHEREAS, UNR, NSC and TMCC have started utilizing digital open educational resources for various courses and supplemental education, and these resources have quickly become indispensable for students and have proven to be extremely successful^{5, 6 & 7}; AND

WHEREAS, an Open Nevada educational resource initiative would aid in reducing the total cost of textbooks and additional course materials for students and become one of the most valuable tools the institutions can utilize to help the students of Nevada obtain degrees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nevada Student Alliance, on behalf of the undergraduates enrolled in the Nevada System of Higher Education:


- Urges the Nevada Board of Regents to create and invest in partnerships with relevant educational entities and out of state systems of higher education to facilitate a database for open sourced educational material; AND
- Urges the Nevada Board of Regents to encourage consistency in course materials between the institutions, by overseeing an Open Nevada educational resource initiative; AND
- Urges the Nevada Board of Regents or Chancellor to create an Open Nevada Committee to study the use of open sourced educational materials and develop methods to ensure that any such resources are peer reviewed and credible.

ADOPTED by the Nevada Student Alliance on this 8th Day of June 2017.

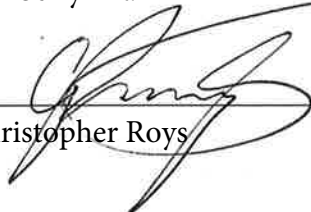
Attest:



Kanani Espinoza NSA Chair



Kimberly Tran NSA Vice-Chair



Christopher Roys NSA Secretary

For sources, see supplemental attachment

Supplemental Attachment of Sources
NSA Resolution Supporting Open Educational Resources

¹ **Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, The Economics Daily, College tuition and fees increase 63 percent since January 2006**
<https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january-2006.htm>

² **Why it Matters to Higher Education, Educause Review, David Lascu, Open Educational Resources: The Bridge to Success Project**
<http://er.educause.edu/articles/2011/12/open-educational-resources-the-bridge-to-success-project>

³ **Office of Educational Technology, The U.S. Department of Education, #GoOpen States**
<https://tech.ed.gov/open/states/>

⁴ **The International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning, Hilton III, Cost-savings achieved in two semesters through the adoption of open educational resources**
<https://www.library.umass.edu/assets/Open-Education-Resources/OER-Articles/Cost-savings-achieved-in-two-semesters-through-the-adoption-of-OER.pdf>

⁵ **UNR Library Guide, University of Nevada, Reno**
<http://guides.library.unr.edu/oer>

⁶ **NSC Library, Nevada State College**
<http://nsc.edu/library/index.aspx>

⁷ **TMCC LibGuide, Truckee Meadows Community College**
<http://libguides.tmcc.edu/OpenEducationalResources>