**MHEC Career Technical Education OER Project
Request for Proposals**

Background

With support from the Hewlett Foundation, MHEC has engaged in a partnership between the four higher education regional compacts—Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)—that aims to increase access, affordability, and equity using open educational resources (OER). This partnership, called the National Consortia for OER (NCOER), will expand current OER efforts in each region led by the compacts and coordinated by the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET).

Together, we are engaging in new opportunities to build capacity for policy and effective practice, enable substantial research, develop open education solutions that promote equitable learning, and support coordination across regions to scale and sustain use of OER across the country.

One key initiative of the NCOER project is to produce open educational resources for career and technical education courses by convening experts from multiple states to work with the Rebus Foundation to produce high-quality learning materials. These resources will fill gaps in available OER content for career and technical fields, as well as possibly address the needs of incarcerated students, emphasizing equity considerations in ways not often included in such resources.

MHEC Career Technical Education OER Project Overview

This call for proposals invites interested faculty, librarians, instructional designers, and others across the MHEC region to propose projects for the creation of new career and technical education OER publications.

MHEC will select three projects centering on the development and publication of new openly licensed, fully accessible learning materials in high-need disciplines within the career and technical education area to fill gaps across existing OER content.

Awardees will receive support for their work from MHEC through the Rebus Textbook Success Program. The Rebus Textbook Success Program is designed to equip institutional teams of faculty, librarians, instructional designers, and other interested stakeholders with the tools they need to make high-quality compilations of OER that could include a book created from scratch, an adaptation, ancillary materials, or a combination of these.

Specifically, awardees will receive:

- Support for their project from the Rebus Textbook Success Program, which includes 12 online sessions of approximately 1.5 hours each to learn the basics of OER creation and dissemination, followed by monthly check-ins with the support team as the teams finish their projects.
- The opportunity to collaborate with teams from other colleges and universities across the country while they move from ideation to publishing.
- Access to the Pressbooks platform for publishing (optional).

Proposals must be submitted at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHECOERCTE by 11:59 p.m. CT on Friday, May 7, 2021 (EXTENDED)

Project Priorities

Projects can be for the creation of full course materials, ancillary materials, or a combination of the two. Priority will be given to proposed projects as follows:

- Projects that are aligned to the areas with the highest projected job growth in the Midwest (see Table 1 below).
- Projects that can demonstrate a connection to supporting the needs of incarcerated populations.
- Projects that are created by teams from different institutions and/or different states in collaboration.

Table 1. Largest Projected Job Openings Among Occupations Requiring a Sub-Baccalaureate Postsecondary Credential in the Midwest Between 2018 and 2028

Occupation	Typical Entry-Level Education	Average Annual Openings
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	Postsecondary nondegree award	64,680
Nursing Assistants	Postsecondary nondegree award	46,930
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	Postsecondary nondegree award	19,210
Medical Assistants	Postsecondary nondegree award	17,940
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Postsecondary nondegree award	16,400
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Postsecondary nondegree award	13,350
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	Associate degree	10,900
Dental Assistants	Postsecondary nondegree award	8,050
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	Postsecondary nondegree award	7,540
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	Associate degree	6,760
Firefighters	Postsecondary nondegree award	5,920
Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	Postsecondary nondegree award	4,720
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	Postsecondary nondegree award	4,400
Physical Therapist Assistants	Associate degree	4,070
Dental Hygienists	Associate degree	4,030
Massage Therapists	Postsecondary nondegree award	3,990
Computer Network Support Specialists	Associate degree	3,900
Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	Postsecondary nondegree award	3,830
Tool and Die Makers	Postsecondary nondegree award	3,830
Library Technicians	Postsecondary nondegree award	3,550

Source. Author's analysis of BLS Data.

Participation Requirements

Awardees commit to the following if selected:

- Participating in regular meetings with MHEC throughout the project period (May 2021 – March 2022).
- Attending 10-month professional development program with Rebus that includes a 12-week synchronous online course and monthly check-ins with the support team at Rebus (specific dates to be determined).
- Submitting a project planning template at the end of the planning period (due August 31, 2021) and completing a brief final project report (due March 31, 2022).
- Sharing outcomes and lessons learned at a MHEC webinar and other presentation opportunities.
- Openly licensing and sharing the final products in a national repository, such as OER Commons or Skills Commons.

Eligibility Criteria

This program is open to teams of faculty, librarians, instructional designers, and other staff at any postsecondary institution in the Midwest region (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

To be eligible for selection, the proposed projects must:

- Establish a core team of no more than four individuals. Team members can be full time or adjunct faculty, librarians, instructional technologists/designers, or other personnel who commit to attending the yearlong professional development program with Rebus.[1]
- Target OER creation in a high-need discipline within career and technical education to fill gaps in existing OER content.
- Include an initial plan for how the OER will be created, scaled, maintained, and sustained over time (to be refined throughout the project).
- Secure the commitment of additional institutional resources (e.g., instructional designer, media specialist, librarian, workforce specialists/advisors, platforms, etc.) for OER content production, hosting, sharing, and maintenance over time.

MHEC Career Technical Education OER Project Timeline

- **March 22, 2021:** Call for proposals opens
- **May 7, 2021 (11:59 p.m. Central Time):** Deadline for all proposals EXTENDED
- **May 17, 2021:** Awardees notified
- **May 2021:** Kickoff webinar (Date TBD)
- **May 2021 - March 2022:** Program participation
- **August 31, 2021:** Project plans due
- **March 31, 2022:** Final reports due

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[1] Teams can consist of more than four members, however, only the four core members will be able to attend the Rebus program.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select proposals for funding:

- Degree to which the proposal meets or exceeds eligibility requirements.
- Extent to which the proposed project meets the career priority needs for the Midwest.
- Extent to which the proposed project includes a connection to support for incarcerated students.
- Extent of institutional or departmental support.
- Feasibility of meeting project goals as proposed.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a proposal for the MHEC Career Technical Education OER Project, complete the application at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MHECOERCTE

All proposals must be submitted **by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Friday, May 7, 2021**

(Extended). If you have any questions about the application, please contact us at

oer@mhec.org

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Contact Information

1. Project Lead
   - First Name
   - Last Name
   - Title
   - Email Address
   - Institution
   - Department

2. If your project team includes other members, please include the following information for each member:
   - First Name, Last Name, Title, Email Address, Institution, Department

Project Details

3. Course Information:

   Course title

   Brief description of the course

   Title of the textbook/course material(s) currently used

   Cost of the textbook/course material(s) currently used

   Implementation semester (the first semester in which you plan to use OER for your course materials)

   Estimated number of students impacted per semester

4. Project narrative. Describe your plans for implementing your project. Please be sure to address the Eligibility Criteria and Participation Requirements noted in the Request for Proposals and specifically how your project fills a gap in existing OER. [Maximum 2,000 words; upload document - files must be in PDF format; File size limit is 16MB]

About MHEC

MHEC brings together midwestern states to develop and support best practices, collaborative efforts, and cost-sharing opportunities. Through these efforts it works to ensure strong, equitable postsecondary educational opportunities and outcomes for all.

MHEC is comprised of member states from the midwestern United States. MHEC works with and for a variety of stakeholders within and across member states, including higher education system leaders, state policymakers, legislators, and institutional leaders, while always maintaining a focus on students and their success.

MHEC is a 501(c)3 entity statutorily-created in each of its member states which include: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. MHEC's office is headquartered in Minneapolis.

https://www.mhec.org/

About Rebus

Rebus Community is a non-profit organization that helps educational institutions build human capacity in OER publishing through professional development. We offer both in-depth courses and webinar series for faculty, librarians, and institutional leaders. Our programs demystify open publishing, encourage OER adoption, support faculty to author new content, and introduce students to affordable, high-quality materials. Programs are designed to connect participants to a global OER community.

https://www.rebus.community/