MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# 2026 Midwestern Open Education Summit

January 27-29, 2026

# Facilitators

**Carrie Wandler,** Ed.D.
Senior Director, Policy Initiatives;
Midwestern Higher Education Compact

**Annika Many**
Lead Consultant, OER;
Midwestern Higher Education Compact

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# About MHEC

- **Our purpose:** To work in partnership with our 12 member states to strengthen postsecondary education through cost-savings initiatives and collaborative solutions that are informed by research and the expertise of regional leaders
- **Legislatively created** in 1991 through Council of State Governments, Midwestern Legislative Conference
- **Governed** by 60 commissioners and alternates
  - **Chair:** Katie Stuart (IL);
  - **Vice Chair:** Tim Mihalick (ND);
  - **Treasurer:** Jacob Bossman (IA)
  - **Past Chair:** Mike Duffy (OH)

# About MHEC

- **Cost & Time Savings Contracts & Programs:** technology (hardware, software and services); student health solutions; insurance programs
- **Policy Initiatives:** state-specific support on dual enrollment; open educational resources; student reciprocity agreements (M-SARA); credit mobility & college affordability
- **Research:** regular reporting on data trends and responses to specific requests to inform state decision making
- **Convenings:** opportunities for legislative, executive branch, and higher ed leaders to problem solve and share ideas

# MHEC Outstanding Service Award

## Nominate a peer to be recognized!

Learn more about the award criteria and past recipients at https://mhec.org/about/awards/

- Applications accepted through September 28, 2026
- Voted upon by MHEC's Governance Committee and confirmed by MHEC's Commission
- Recipients recognized at MHEC's Annual Commission meeting in November

**2025 OSA Recipients** *pictured L to R:* **Craig Jackson**, executive director of technology infrastructure and research computing at Illinois State University, **Jennifer Armour**, associate director of academic affairs for the Kansas Board of Regents, and **Angela Neria**, associate vice president of technology and chief information officer for Pittsburg State University in Kansas

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Agenda Overview

- **Welcome, Opening, and Overview** (9:00–9:30 am)
- **Team Time: Strategic Planning –Session 1** (9:30–10:30 am)
  Teams complete and discuss their 2026 OER State Capacity Assessment
- **Morning Break** (10:30–10:45 am)
- **Breakout –Session 1** (10:45–11:30 am)
  Measuring OER Impact on Student Success; Building Consistent Reporting Frameworks; Telling the Story of OER Through Data
- **Break & Transition** (11:30 –11:45 am)
- **Breakout –Session 2** (11:45 am–12:30 pm)
  Choosing the Right Publishing Platform for Your Context; Supporting Faculty in Authoring, Adapting, and Remixing OER; Building Statewide Infrastructure and Collaboration Around OER Publishing
- **Lunch** (12:30 –1:00 pm)

# A Look at Midwestern Open Education Successes

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# What We've Built Together (and Why It Matters)

- This work reflects your leadership across 12 states
- Built over multiple years, not overnight
- Designed for long-term, statewide impact

# Capacity First, Adoption Follows

- Focus on systems, not single courses
- Invest in people, coordination, and infrastructure
- Accept uneven starting points across states

# State Teams as the Engine of the Work

- 12 active OER State Action Teams
- Cross-sector representation
- Regular coordination and shared learning

# From MHEC-Led to State-Led

- Independent statewide meetings and summits
- State-defined priorities and agendas
- Leadership emerging from within states

# What Changed Because of This Work

- OER State Action Teams established in all 12 MHEC states
- 8 states now host independent statewide OER convenings or planning bodies
- State-led leadership, agendas, and priorities emerging across the region
- Shared language and frameworks for statewide OER capacity

# From Grant Dollars to On-the-Ground Results

- State subgrants deployed in 12 states each grant period
- First-ever statewide OER conferences in multiple states
- Faculty communities of practice, leadership stipends, and training launched
- New or strengthened OER hubs, repositories, and publishing pathways

# What “Capacity Building” Looked Like in Practice

- Illinois: exploring a sustainable statewide OER publishing model
- Indiana: coordinating leadership + evaluating OER for core transfer pathways
- Michigan & North Dakota: statewide OER conferences and infrastructure growth
- Minnesota & South Dakota: Grants for under-resourced institutions

# From Midwest Practice to National Influence

- Midwest states informed national OER course marking guidance
- Cross-compact collaboration elevated state perspectives
- Lessons from state teams reflected in national tools and conversations

# Progress Is Real — and Uneven by Design

- No state meets all capacity indicators
- Strengths vary across policy, infrastructure, engagement
- Clear signals about where to focus next

# The Value of Doing This Work Together

- Midwestern Open Education Summits
- Peer problem-solving
- Shared tools, language, and approaches

# Looking Back to Move Forward Together

- Shared baseline for Summit conversations
- Validates different state realities
- Sets up strategic next steps

# What Does the Next Version of Capacity Look Like?

- Deeper state ownership
- Stronger infrastructure and data
- Clearer pathways to sustainability

# Team Time: Strategic Planning – Session 1

# 2026 OER Capacity Assessment

https://qrco.de/bgZ5hG

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Afternoon Schedule Adjustments

# Schedule Adjustments

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. -AI for Statewide OER Leaders

2:00 - 2:15 p.m. - Break

2:15 - 3:00 p.m. - Team Time

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - State Pairs Conversations

4:00 - 4:15 p.m. - Break

4:15 -5:00 p.m. - NCOER Plenary Panel

# 10:30 - 10:45 a.m.
# Break and Transition

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Breakout Session Block 1: Data & Reporting

Room 245: Measuring OER Impact on Student Success

Room 246: Building Consistent Reporting Frameworks Across Institutions

Room 206: Telling the Story of OER Through Data

# 11:30 - 11:45 a.m.
# Break and Transition

# Breakout Session Block 2: Tools & Software

Room 245: Supporting Faculty in Authoring, Adapting, and Remixing OER

Room 246: Building Statewide Infrastructure and Collaboration Around OER Publishing

Room 206: Choosing the Right Publishing Platform for Your Context

# 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
# Lunch

# 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

# Opportunities and Challenges of AI for Statewide OER Leaders

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# 2:00 - 2:15 p.m.
# Break and Transition

# 2:15 - 3:00 p.m.
# Team Time

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
# State by State Conversations

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Round 1: 3:00 - 3:20 p.m.

Iowa ↔ Nebraska

Indiana ↔ Illinois

Ohio ↔ Michigan

South Dakota ↔ North Dakota

Wisconsin ↔ Minnesota

Kansas ↔ Missouri

# Round 2: 3:20 - 3:40 p.m.

Iowa ↔ Wisconsin

Indiana ↔ Ohio

Michigan ↔ Kansas

Nebraska ↔ South Dakota

Minnesota ↔ North Dakota

Illinois ↔ Missouri

# Round 3: 3:40 - 4:00 p.m.

Iowa ↔ Missouri

Indiana ↔ Michigan

Nebraska ↔ Kansas

South Dakota ↔ Minnesota

Illinois ↔ Wisconsin

Ohio ↔ North Dakota

# 4:00 - 4:15 p.m.
# Break and Transition

# 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
# NCOER Panel

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

NEW ENGLAND BOARD of HIGHER EDUCATION

## NEBHE

- Majority independent (private) institutions
- States with various levels of funding and priorities for higher ed

# New England States

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

# Our Current OER Work

- Course Marking Grant Program
- OER Creation or Adaptation Grant Program Pilot
- Funding professional development to conferences
- Northeast OER Summit
- Open Education Advisory Committee

# Northeast OER Summit – March 25-26

A virtual event for new and experienced OER advocates offering the opportunity to learn and share effective practices in awareness building, implementation, collaboration, strategy, and research.

**Building Bridges: Linking Local Foundations to Global Horizons**

# What our states are doing

CT Model OER Policy

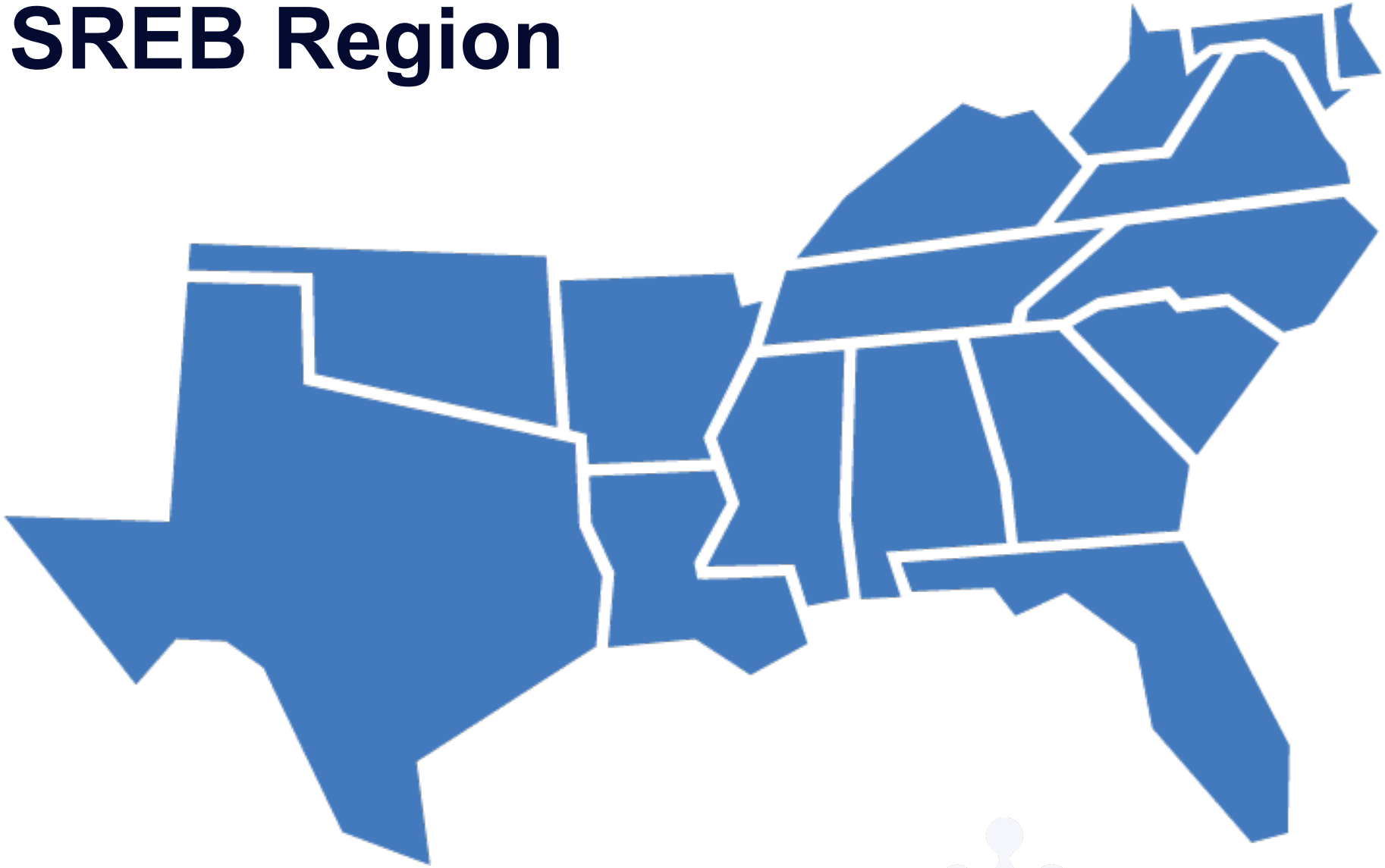
MA Dept of Ed OER Advisory Council

SREB

# NCOER Plenary Panel on State Capacity Building

PRESENTED BY ALLISON BUCKLEY
PROGRAM SPECIALIST, OER

# The SREB Region



SREB

# Our Mission & Vision

## MISSION

- To guide and support states as they advance all levels of education to improve the social and economic vitality of the SREB region.

## VISION

Each child and adult in the SREB region will have high-quality educational opportunities that build on the rich diversity of the region and lead to productive, meaningful lives and robust economies.

SREB

# 2026 Priorities

EDUCATOR WORKFORCE

PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS

CHILDCARE & EARLY LEARNING

EDUCATION FUNDING

SREB

# About this Opportunity

**THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO OER**

According to The Barthwell Group, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) face many barriers that hinder their ability to adopt and implement OER.

SREB

# Grant Overview

**GRANT AMOUNT**
Seven selected institutions will receive $10,000 for OER initiatives.

**COLLABORATION ENCOURAGED**
Institutions are urged to work together across departments.

**GRANT DURATION**
The grant period lasts 12 months for capacity building.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT PLAN**
SREB will assist with effective implementation and strategies.

SREB

# Grant Application Eligibility

**01** **POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS LOCATED IN THE SREB REGION**

- 2 Year Institutions
- 4 Year Institutions

**02** **PRIORITY FOR HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY SERVING INSTITUIONS**

**03** **DEMONSTRATE ONGOING COMMITMENT TO UTILIZING OER AND OPEN PRACTICES**

SREB

# Institutional Commitment

SREB

- Participate in Year-long virtual Community of Practice
  - Collaborate with grantees
  - Access to online central resource repository, including toolkits, recorded webinars, promising practices.
- Assist with development of customized technical support plan
- Address challenges in OER integration
- Submit a final report

SREB

# Focus Areas

**KEY OBJECTIVES FOR PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS**

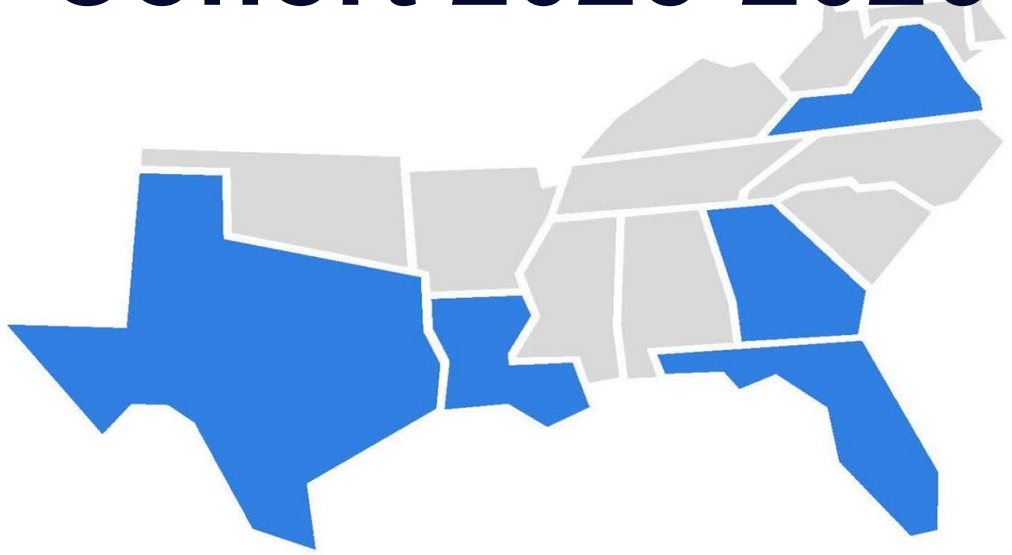
- Building institutional capacity to implement or expand the utilization of OER.
- Integrating OER into core curricula effectively
- Developing scalable models for replication across campuses

# Fund Use

- Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff that help to increase awareness and understanding of Open Educational Resources and/or practices.
  - Speaking engagements
  - Workshops (ex. Creative Commons, Pressbooks, Train the Trainer, etc)
  - Faculty incentives to review OER in their disciplines
- Costs related to OER implementation
  - Staff time
  - Faculty incentives to attend information sessions on adopting OER

SREB

# Meet the OECBG HBCU-MSI Grantee Cohort 2025-2026



ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY (GA)

HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE (FL)

LAREDO COLLEGE (TX)

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (VA)

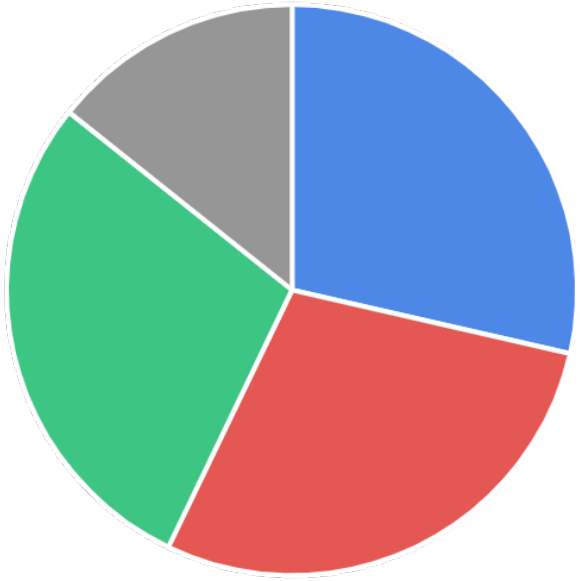
THE OLIN LIBRARY AT ROLLINS COLLEGE (FL)

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE (LA)

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY (VA)

SREB

# Distribution of Minority Serving Institutions in Cohort (institutions)



- 2 Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)
- 2 Historical Black College and University (HBCU)
- 2 Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI)
- 1 Non-Minority Serving Institution (non-MSI)

SREB

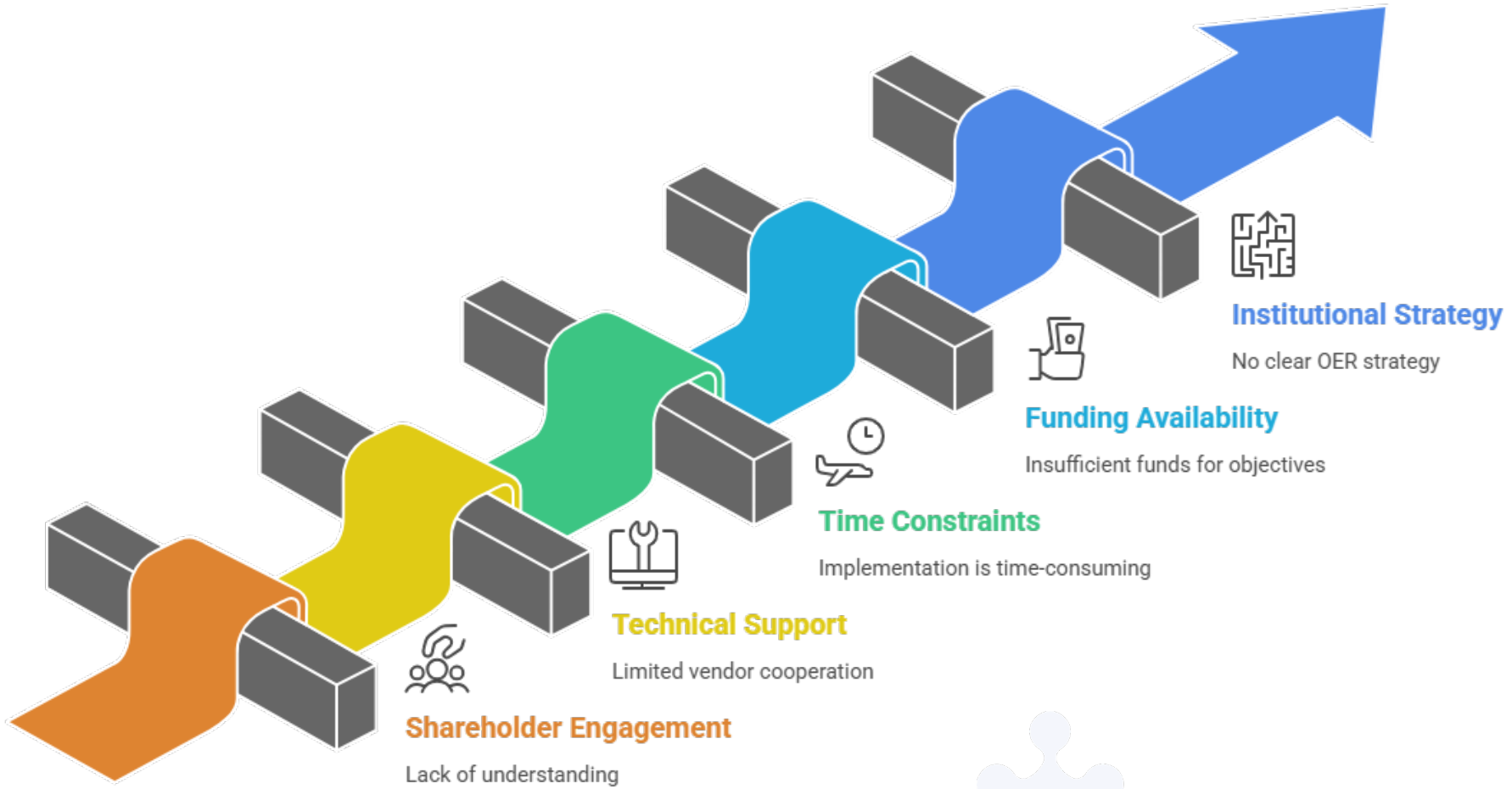
# Anticipated Challenges in OER Implementation

## IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING POTENTIAL HURDLES FOR SUCCESS

- Shareholder engagement and understanding of OER
- Technical support and vendor cooperation
- Time constraints and implementation
- Amount of funding available to carry out program objectives
- Institutional OER strategy

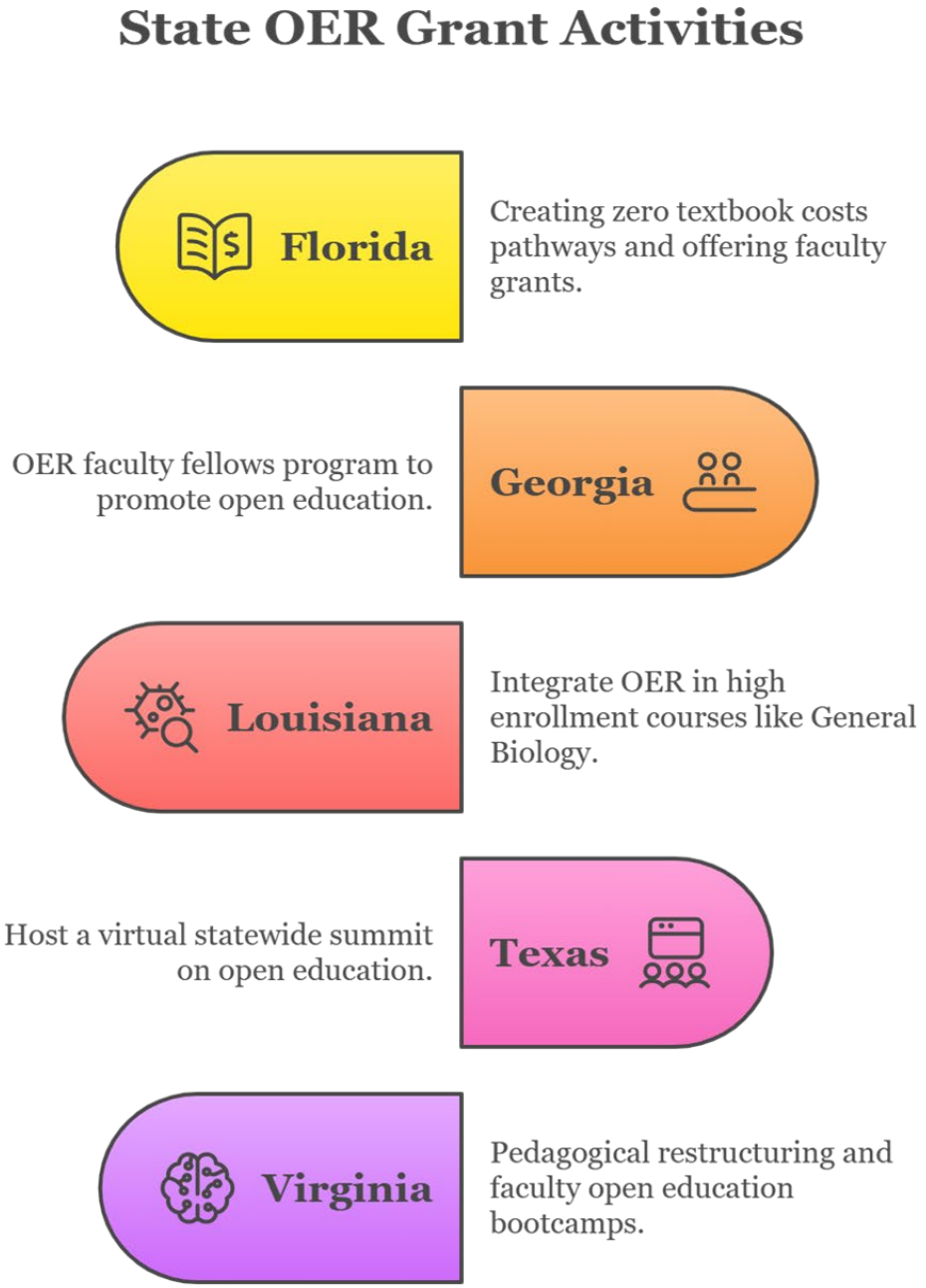
SREB

# OECBG HBCU-MSI Grantee Cohort
# 2025-2026
# OER Implementation Challenges




SREB

# State Grant Activities:

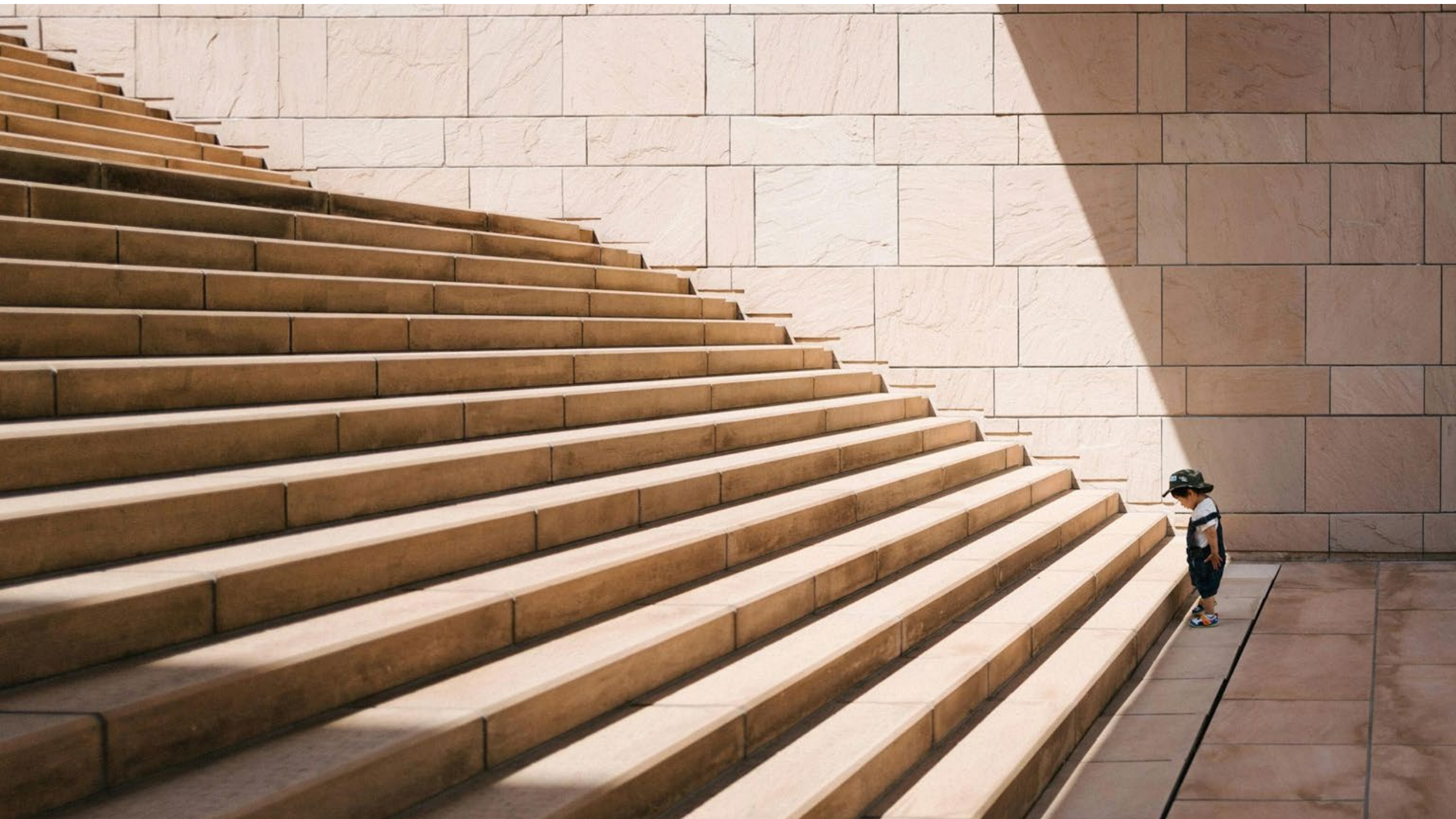



SREB

# Grant Application and Award Timeline

SREB

Made with Napkin



WICHE

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

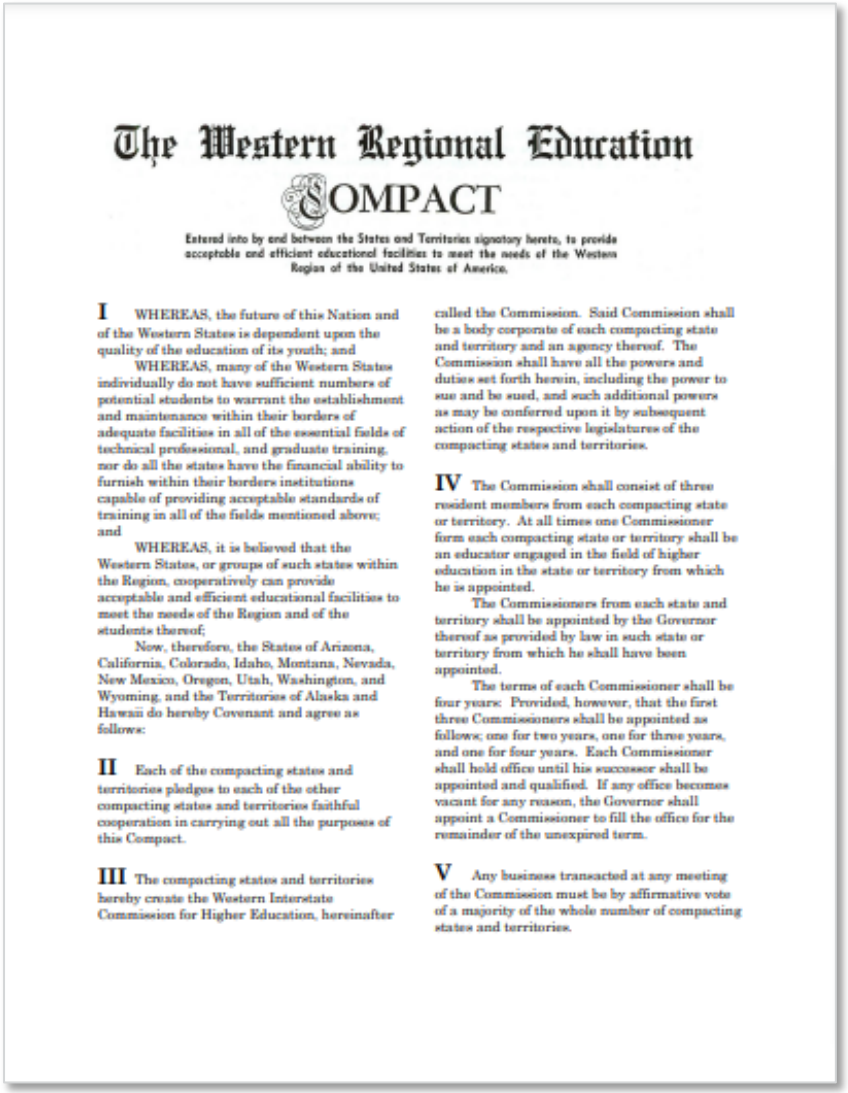
# Advancing OER in the West

Kate Baca, Policy Analyst

# WICHE REGION

# WHAT IS WICHE?

- **An interstate compact formed by the Western Governors in 1953**
- **Congressional action signed in 1953 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower**



The Western Regional Education COMPACT

Entered into by and between the States and Territories signatory hereto, to provide acceptable and efficient educational facilities to meet the needs of the Western Region of the United States of America.

**I** WHEREAS, the future of this Nation and of the Western States is dependent upon the quality of the education of its youth; and

WHEREAS, many of the Western States individually do not have sufficient numbers of potential students to warrant the establishment and maintenance within their borders of adequate facilities in all of the essential fields of technical professional, and graduate training, nor do all the states have the financial ability to furnish within their borders institutions capable of providing acceptable standards of training in all of the fields mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that the Western States, or groups of such states within the Region, cooperatively can provide acceptable and efficient educational facilities to meet the needs of the Region and of the students thereof;

Now, therefore, the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii do hereby Covenant and agree as follows:

**II** Each of the compacting states and territories pledges to each of the other compacting states and territories faithful cooperation in carrying out all the purposes of this Compact.

**III** The compacting states and territories hereby create the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, hereinafter called the Commission. Said Commission shall be a body corporate of each compacting state and territory and an agency thereof. The Commission shall have all the powers and duties set forth herein, including the power to sue and be sued, and such additional powers as may be conferred upon it by subsequent action of the respective legislatures of the compacting states and territories.

**IV** The Commission shall consist of three resident members from each compacting state or territory. At all times one Commissioner form each compacting state or territory shall be an educator engaged in the field of higher education in the state or territory from which he is appointed.

The Commissioners from each state and territory shall be appointed by the Governor thereof as provided by law in such state or territory from which he shall have been appointed.

The terms of each Commissioner shall be four years: Provided, however, that the first three Commissioners shall be appointed as follows; one for two years, one for three years, and one for four years. Each Commissioner shall hold office until his successor shall be appointed and qualified. If any office becomes vacant for any reason, the Governor shall appoint a Commissioner to fill the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

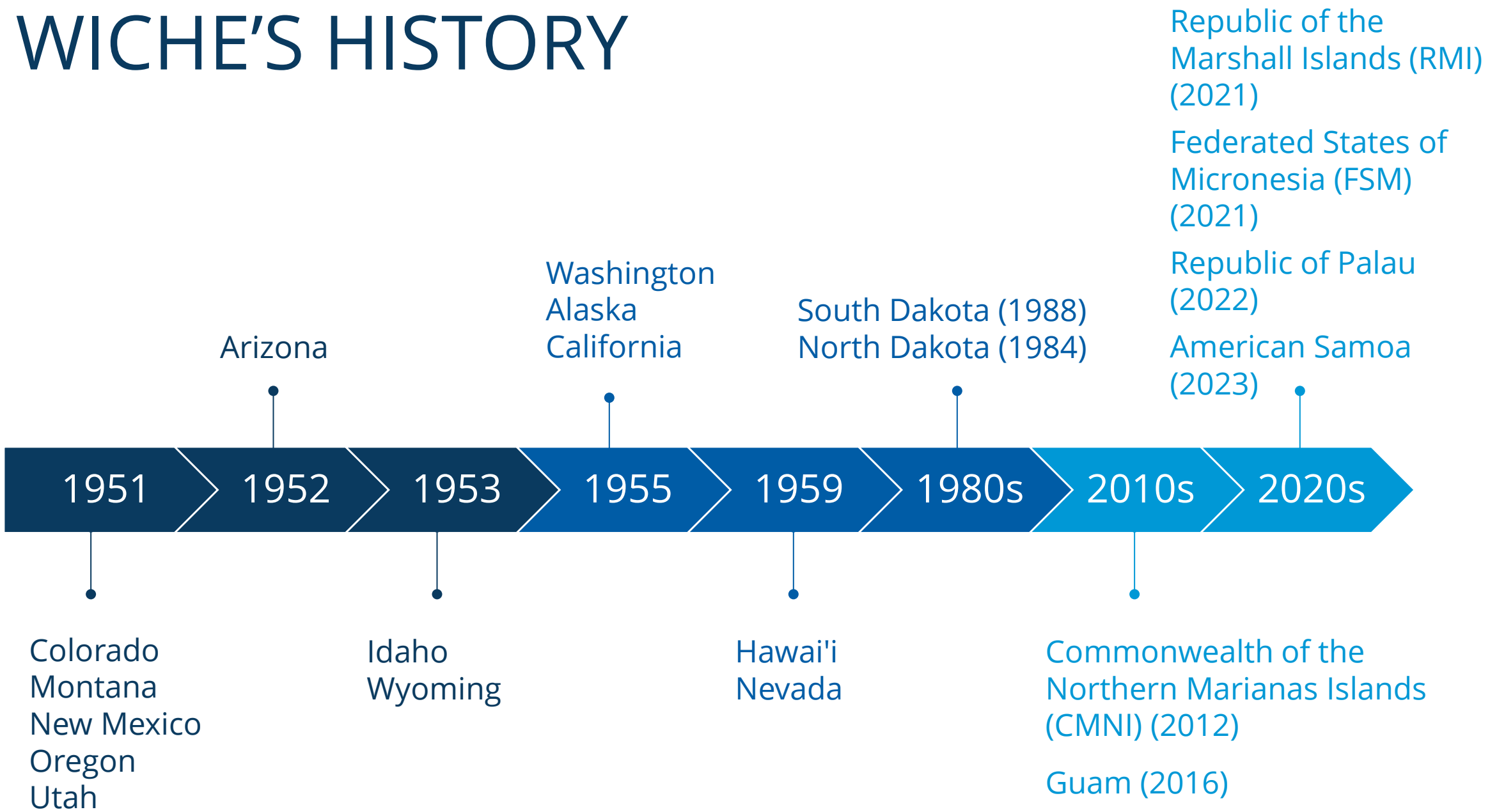
**V** Any business transacted at any meeting of the Commission must be by affirmative vote of a majority of the whole number of compacting states and territories.

# WICHE'S MISSION

**WICHE works collaboratively to expand educational access and excellence for all residents of the West.**

**By promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and sound public policy, WICHE strengthens higher education's contributions to the region's social, economic, and civic life.**

# WICHE'S HISTORY



# State Spotlight: Colorado

- The OER grant program launched in 2018 with three years of funding from *H.B. 18-1331*
- The program was expanded an additional five years through *S.B. 21-215*
- The OER adopted, adapted, or created in the first six cycles of the grant program has **saved Colorado students over $59.7 million in textbook costs** to date. The cumulative cost savings for the first six years of the grant program are projected to surpass $75 million in spring 2026. Learn more about the impact of the Colorado OER Grant Program in the *2025 Open Educational Resources Report*.

# State Spotlight: New Mexico

- New Mexico OER Consortium was officially *funded by the Department of Education in 2024* with a $2.125 million grant.
- Also funded by the *state of New Mexico's investments* in equitable education, including the NM Opportunity Scholarship, the NM Lottery Scholarship, and State Bill 192, which appropriated $100,000 to establish an open education resources pilot program at UNM.
- Librarians across UNM, CNM and SFCC work to expand OER across the state and build out OER textbooks.

# State Spotlight: Arizona

- Started as a decentralized model with a loose network of institutions
- Mainly Faculty and librarian led with a network of rural colleges developing to advance Open Ed
- There was/is no legislative connection – grassroots led
- Has led to the creation of the OERizona network: a professional learning community committed to providing learners across Arizona (and beyond) unimpeded and equitable access to high-quality learning materials through the promotion of open educational practices.

# THANK YOU!

**Kate Baca**

**Policy Analyst**

**kbaca@wiche.edu**

**www.wiche.edu**

WICHE

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

# 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
# Meet us at Joe's Live for dinner & networking

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Day 2: Agenda Overview

- 8:15 – 8:45 a.m. – Team Time
- 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. – Open Education Association
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. – Break & Transition
- 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.  - Roundtables
- 11:00 – 11:15 a.m. – Break & Transition
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Closing Plenary
- 12:00 -12:30 p.m. – Team Time

# 8:15 – 8:45 a.m.
# Team Time

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.
# Group Photo & Break

# 9:45 – 11:00 a.m.
# Roundtables Networking & Advice

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Roundtables Round 1

| Round 1 | Facilitator | Table Name |
|---|---|---|
| **Faculty Professional Development for OER Adoption/Creation** | Veronica Goosey | North Dakota |
| **Developing Open Textbook Publishing Programs** | Vince Mussehl | Minnesota |
| **Securing Institutional Buy-in** | Kayla Reed | Indiana |
| **Statewide Policy Advocacy for Open Education** | Michele Leigh | Iowa |
| **Sustaining Open Education Initiatives Long-Term** | Molly Lederman | Michigan |
| **Building Cross-Institutional Collaboration** | Katelyn Handler | Missouri |

# Roundtables Round 2

| Round 2 | Facilitator | Table Name |
|---|---|---|
| **Measuring the Impact of Open Education Projects** | Timothy Sandusky | Minnesota |
| **How to partner with your campus bookstore** | Kim Anvinson | Indiana |
| **Faculty Professional Development for OER Adoption/Creation** | Amanda Folk | Iowa |
| **Securing Institutional Buy-in** | Katelyn Handler | Michigan |
| **Sustaining Open Education Initiatives Long-Term** | Anna Bendo | Missouri |
| **Building Cross-Institutional Collaboration** | Vince Mussehl | Illinois |

# Roundtables Round 3

| Round 3 | Facilitator | Table Name |
|---|---|---|
| **Securing Institutional Buy-in** | Raya Samet | North Dakota |
| **Building Cross-Institutional Collaboration** | Katelyn Handler | Indiana |
| **Statewide Policy Advocacy for Open Education** | Michele Leigh | Iowa |
| **Measuring the Impact of Open Education Projects** | Claire Nickerson | Michigan |
| **Developing Open Textbook Publishing Programs** | Timothy Sandusky | Missouri |
| **Improving Student Outcomes through OER** | Melissa Williams | Illinois |

# 11:00 – 11:15 a.m.
# Break & Transition

# Closing Plenary: Building Sustainable OER Initiatives

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# Please help us make the Summit better!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26MidwestOESummit

MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT

# 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.
# Team Time