NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously-funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the current guidelines, which reflect the most recent information and instructions, at https://www.neh.gov/program/spotlight-humanities-higher-education.

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Education Programs staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: *Humanities OER Course Conversion*

Institution: Stanly Community College

Project Director: Lorri Barrier

Gr ant Program: Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education Development Grants

Humanities content and activities

This project includes the conversion of ten humanities courses currently using textbooks at Stanly Community College to Open Educational Resources (OER) instead of a textbook. Converting courses currently using a textbook to OER is particularly important for Stanly Community College since it is a small, rural institution primarily serving Stanly County residents. Stanly Community College is located in Albemarle, North Carolina. Stanly County has a population of approximately 62,504 residents according to the 2020 census. During the fall 2022 semester, Stanly Community College has 2,567 Curriculum students enrolled, and of those, 1,495 are Stanly County residents. SCC (Stanly Community College) currently has 1,056 students receiving Pell Grants, which is 41% of our curriculum student population. According to a mental health survey conducted by Stanly Community College in 2021, 30.30 % of 268 student respondents reported high distress related to academics, and 25.86 % reported high distress related to finances. Offering more classes with OER would help reduce the financial burden on students, which may in turn decrease the distress related to academics.

The humanities courses offered at Stanly Community College represent a portion of the required electives for completion of the curriculum AA or AS degrees. Stanly Community College students often have the goal of transferring to a four-year institution, and the humanities courses those institutions accept are indicated with articulation agreements with NC public universities and selected private institutions. The identified courses for OER conversion are all transferable courses under articulation agreements. Stanly Community College is committed to promoting equity in all aspects of the college, and moving to OER in more classes, both online and seated, will help address the excessive cost of textbooks for students. The following ten courses have been identified for redesign based on instructor willingness to participate in the project, student enrollment, and the potential for attracting more students to these courses, particularly if there are no associated textbook costs. The redesign project will include the following courses:

Course Name	Enrollment from Academic years fall 2020-fall 2022 including summer 2022	Success Rates: Academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022	Cost of Current Text (minimum cost calculated, new texts/print texts are more expensive)
ART 111-Intro to Art	683	2020-2021: 82% 2021-2022: 86%	91.75 (digital text)
ART 115-Art History II	180	2020-2021: 87% 2021-2022: 93%	15.00 (used text)
HUM 122-Southern Culture	238	2020-2021: 71% 2021-2022: 77%	Text 1-10.00 (used) Text 2- 26.10 (rent)
HUM 150-American Women's Studies	91	2020-2021: 88% 2021-2022: 74%	43.30 (rent)
PHI 215- Philosophical Issues (course did not run during pandemic)	10	2020-2021: N/A 2021-2022: 80%	16.95 (buy)
ENG 125-Creative Writing (course did	9	2020-2021: N/A 2021-2022: 100%	17.25 (buy)

not run during pandemic)			
REL 110- World Religions	117	2020-2021: 87% 2021-2022: 75%	46.99 (digital)
REL 211-Intro to Old Testament	40	2020-2021: 75% 2021-2022: 81%	75.00 (rent)
SPA 111 and 181- Elementary Spanish with Lab	90	2020-2021:83% (111) 2020-2021:82% (181-lab) 2021-2022: 75% (111) 2021-2022: 78% (181-lab)	153.50 (rent)
SPA 112 and 182- Intermediate Spanish with Lab	89	2020-2021: 90% (112) 2021-2022: 90% (182-lab) 2020-2021: 92% (112) 2021-2022: 86% (182-lab)	153.50 (rent)

This project involves seven faculty and staff members at Stanly Community College currently teaching humanities courses or with a master's degree in the subject areas identified. If awarded the grant, the funds will be divided evenly per course, therefore allowing course designers to be compensated for the extra time, research, and collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning (at Stanly Community College), and the Learning Resources Center at Stanly Community College to create content rich OER courses. The course designs will also include ADA compliance and Quality Matters standards adopted by Stanly Community College.

Project Personnel

The personnel for the OER course conversion includes the following faculty and staff members:

Name	Role	Qualifications
Lorri Barrier (project director)	Humanities/Fine Arts Dept. Head, English Instructor, Writing Center Tutor	M.A. in English Education, University of NC Charlotte
Vickie Heidt	ART 111 and 115 instructor.	M.A. in Liberal Arts, Baker University
Kara Harper	PHI 215 instructor	M.A. in Ethics and Applied Philosophy, University of NC Charlotte

John Bowman	University Transfer and English Dept. Head and HUM 122 instructor.	M.A. in English, University of NC Charlotte
Dr. Cindy Dean	Director, Institutional Effectiveness and HUM 150 instructor.	Ed.D. in Teaching & Learning, Liberty University
Dr. Reese Linnell	Sociology, History, and Religion instructor.	Ph.D. in Humanities, Faulkner University, Alabama
Liane She	Spanish Instructor	M.A. in Spanish, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

In addition to the content-area instructors and course designers, the following staff members will aid instructors as they research OER course content and create new Canvas courses for each identified course. Canvas is Stanly Community College's learning management system. Instructors in online, hybrid, and traditional classes use Canvas.

Name	Role	Qualifications
Joe Pollard	Dean, Center for Teaching & Learning	M.A. in Accounting, Appalachian State University
Phil Baucom	Instructional Designer/Center for Teaching & Learning	M.B.A. in Business Administration, Gardner-Webb University
April Furr	Learning Technologist	A.S. in Information Technology—Business Support, Stanly Community College
Tabitha Love	Center for Teaching & Learning Support Coordinator	Ed.S. in Higher Education: Adult & Developmental Education, Appalachian State University
Joel Ferdon	Director of Library Services	M.A., English Literature & M.F.A., Creative Writing, McNeese State University; M.L.I.S, Library Science, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Institutional context and benefit

The Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education grant would allow Stanly Community College to enhance instruction in selected humanities courses by having the courses re-designed by content-area instructors focusing on OER materials, therefore drastically reducing costs to our students. According to the U.S. Census, 11.6% of Stanly County residents are in poverty. Stanly Community College offers internet access on campus through the Learning Resources Center, which is open to the public. Stanly Community College also allows students to check out devices such as Chromebooks and laptops at no cost. Many of our students take advantage of online

course offerings for convenience. Approximately 86% of our curriculum courses are offered online (2,209 students) and as of 2020, 66% of Stanly Community College curriculum students are over age 20. Since the proposed course re-design would include online course offerings, this will target many students who cannot come to campus because of transportation issues and family and work responsibilities.

The mission of Stanly Community College is to benefit the lives of the students and the communities we serve through education and partnerships to promote life-long learning. Stanly Community College currently offers 30 Associate Degree programs, 20 Certificate programs, various continuing education courses, and we house the Stanly Early College High School on the Albemarle campus. The college's courses are offered in virtual, hybrid, and traditional settings. Stanly Community College also participates in Career & College Promise, offering free college courses to qualifying high school juniors and seniors. Through this program, students may earn up to 30 hours of transferable college credits.

This project would support the CCP and Early College students through ease of access to materials since the Stanly County School System currently absorbs the cost for textbooks. This is a special consideration for Stanly County and could be revoked at any time because of budget constraints. Offering more classes with OER will benefit the college's students still in high school and reduce the cost of textbooks to the school system. Being able to advertise humanities courses as OER should increase the number of high school students enrolled through CCP and Early College, as well as homeschool students, since these courses will be more affordable by being OER. Homeschool students are also eligible for dual enrollment, and parents/guardians currently must absorb the cost of textbooks since homeschool students are not covered by Stanly County Schools.

For any community college student, but particularly dual enrolled students, humanities courses are often a "starting point" in a curriculum program since many of the humanities courses offered do not have pre-requisites in place. ART 111, ART 115, HUM 122, HUM 150, REL 110, REL 211, and SPA 111 are all courses identified for this project, and none require prerequisites. PHI 215and ENG 125 do require ENG 111 as a prerequisite, but that course has previously been converted to OER. SPA 112 has only the prerequisite of SPA 111, which is included in this project. Humanities courses play a significant role at Stanly Community College in this way since the tone of a student's college experience can be set with the first college course. Having content rich OER courses in place benefits high school/dual enrolled students, but also any community college student seeking a course that fulfills a program requirement and is affordable.

During the pandemic, Stanly Community College moved most instruction online beginning in March 2020. Because of the college's commitment to offering course content online, the college was well-situated to make the move to online instruction since most of the instructors are trained in online and hybrid delivery. To address the needs of students in the community, the college offered Wi-Fi accessibility from the library parking lot to address the lack of broadband in our community, and made hotspots, laptops, and Chromebooks available the students to check-out during the time the college was not meeting on campus. Since the majority of the identified courses for this project are taught in online sections, and the seated courses have online components, it is particularly important that online materials be updated and relevant. Providing resources and time for the instructors to develop OER content will benefit all students enrolling in humanities courses at Stanly Community College.

Since the return to in-person instruction in June of 2021, the college has struggled with enrollment just as many other community colleges have across the state, particularly in our seated courses. Stanly Community College has kept many of the measures adopted during the pandemic in place for students, such as hotspot and laptop check-out. Many of our instructors have continued Zoom sessions with students even though they are available for appointments on campus. The pandemic increased demand for online accessibility, so it makes sense that more of our classes move to OER instead of textbooks for ease of online accessibility as well as the cost savings for our students. Stanly County's rural community is still struggling with the challenges of the pandemic, including economic loss and loss of life. One small thing the college can do to help ease the burden for our students is offer courses that are cost-effective as well as educationally profound.

Work Plan

Dates	Activities
June 1, 2023-September 1, 2023	Instructors identified for converting courses to OER begin planning course modules, request Canvas shell from the Learning Management System team to create the new online course, identify any syllabus information or course information from the previous Canvas course that may be moved to the new shell, deleting any references or assignments that may refer to the textbook previously used. The new courses may use the old Canvas course as a guide or skeleton to use for the new course.
September 1, 2023-January 31, 2024	Instructors participating in the course re-design meet with Joel Ferdon, Stanly Community College's Director of Library Services, to identify OER materials that will be comparable to the modules and information instructors used previously in the identified courses.
February 1, 2024-May 11, 2024 *Our 9-month faculty are out for the summer beginning on May 12th. Some may elect to continue working on the OER conversion over the summer.	Instructors meet with members of the Center for Teaching and Learning to ensure alignment of OER materials and assignments in the new courses with QM Standards, TiLT, and ADA compliance. Center for Teaching and Learning specialists include Joe Pollard, Phil Baucom, April Furr, and Tabitha Love. The Center for Teaching and Learning can also identify online resources (videos, online discussion tools, etc.) to aid instructors in online teaching and keep students engaged in online content.
May 12-August 7, 2024	Instructors continue to meet with The Center for Teaching and Learning as needed, finalize course content, assignments, integrate OER materials, etc.
August 7-14, 2024	Some instructors may indicate their redesigned OER courses are ready at this time. Stanly Community College has an evaluation process for all new and redesigned courses. Joe Pollard meets with instructors indicating their course is ready, and they go through the QM checklist together, noting

	anything that may need to be edited or changed.
August 15-September 15, 2024	Any courses completed for the academic 12-week course section beginning in mid-September are edited, checked, and approved for rollout in the fall 12-week session. Typically, the 12-week courses include ART 111, ART 115, HUM 122, HUM 150, and REL 211.
September 15-December 15, 2024	The remaining courses, REL 110, PHI 215, ENG 125, SPA 111/181, SPA 112/182 are finalized for rollout beginning in spring 2025.